

Part XXVIII.—XXXII.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO

ENQUIRE INTO THE PRESENT STATE

OF THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

AND INTO THE

**TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN, THE EAST-INDIES,
AND CHINA;**

AND TO REPORT TO THE HOUSE.

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The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.



FRANCIS HASTINGS TOONE, Esq. is called in, and examined as follows:

4830. HAVE you been in China?—I have been.

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4831. What situation did you hold in China?—I was a civil servant in the Company's service in China.

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4832. In what year did you go out to China?—In 1805.

4833. When did you leave China?—The last time, I left it at the end of 1825.

4834. Had you been absent, during that period, for any length of time?—Yes; I was twice absent during that time. I returned twice to Europe; I was absent for three years, and another time for two.

4835. Your knowledge of China extends over a period of twenty years?—Yes.

4836. What situation did you hold when you left China?—I was second member of the Select Committee.

4837. In what manner are the servants of the Company in China remunerated?—By a commission upon the sale of goods on the part of the East-India Company.

4838. What is the amount of your commission?—It is two per cent., subject to certain deductions, which make it less than two per cent.

4839. On the sale of what goods is that commission granted?—On the sale of all goods exported to China on account of the East-India Company, from England or from India, with the exception of bullion; and on all goods sent to London on the same account; also upon the teas by the East-India Company, for sale in Halifax and Quebec.

4840. Is that calculated on the sale price of those sold in London?—I understand that it is upon the net sale price.

4841. Is it calculated upon the sale price of the goods imported into China, or upon their invoice price?—I understand, upon the invoice price.

4842. The calculation however is made in England, is it?—It is.

4843. What other charges, in addition to those included in the two per cent. commission, are paid by the Company, for the management of their China trade, in China?—They pay the salaries of two tea inspectors, two
(47) surgeons,

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H. Toome, Esq. surgeons, and an interpreter; there is also an allowance to the Commodore of the Indiamen, and a retiring pension paid to a former tea inspector, and the salaries of all the European servants connected with the factory—those are deductions from the two per cent.

4844. In addition to the two per cent., there are the charges of the rents of houses occupied by the factors?—Yes; the expenses of the table, and the rent of the factories, at Canton and Macao; those are the principal items. The removal of the factory to and from Macao forms another item.

4845. What additional per-centage upon the two per cent. commission do you apprehend all those charges amount to?—I understand from the officers of the India House, that three per cent. covers the whole expense the factory of every description.

4846. What is the amount of commission paid by private traders at the port of Canton to the agents who conduct their business?—From three to five per cent.; I have never known less than three; and I have generally understood that five per cent. has been charged by private agents.

4847. The trade of the Company at Canton then is conducted on a more economical footing, as regards the allowances of the servants and the commission paid by them, than the trade of individuals?—I believe as

as I know. You apprehend that the trade of the Company at Canton be conducted by fewer persons than are now employed?—I think it might be conducted by fewer leading persons, with clerks to execute.

4849. In your opinion, is a long residence in China necessary person to conduct trade with the Chinese?—I should say that a residence of three years in the country would qualify a man who was actively employed in commercial business during that period, to conduct commercial transactions with the Chinese.

4850. Is a knowledge of the Chinese language necessary?—It is useful, but not absolutely necessary; it is highly useful, no doubt; but not one of the private merchants resident in China has any knowledge of it.

4851. And they get on perfectly well without it?—They do so.

4852. What reduction, in your opinion, could be made in the charges of the factory at Canton, without diminishing its efficiency?—It would require four or five leading persons to conduct the business of the factory, and perhaps as many more to meet the contingencies of ill health, which might oblige them to return occasionally to Europe. I should say that with less than ten it could not be efficiently conducted, and that exclusive of mere clerks.

4853. The present number is twenty, is it not?—It is.

4854. In proportion as the capital of a merchant or mercantile body is large

large, the charge of conducting that trade is proportionably small, is it not? —Certainly.

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4855. In what manner do you purchase the teas for the Company's investment?—We usually contract for the teas in the spring of the year, to be delivered in the following autumn and winter, and to be then shipped for Europe in that time.

4856. Do you purchase any teas not on contract?—Yes; to fill up the deficiencies which occur in the fulfilment of those contracts. The same body of merchants, namely, the Hong merchants, supply those teas as supply the teas to be received as contract teas.

4857. You make it a practice to reject all teas which do not come up to your standard?—Yes.

4858. Are those deficiencies in the merchants with whom you have contracted considerable?—With the younger and poorer merchants it often occurs; but not with the richer and senior merchants.

4859. Has the quantity of tea deficient in any year been considerable?—I think it has. There are five or six junior merchants in China, each of whom have occasionally failed to deliver a quantity of tea of proper quality, equal to the amount contracted for.

Can you state the amount of the deficiency which has occurred at any time?—I cannot, at this moment.

4861. When you have been obliged to buy teas not on contract, have you found any difficulty in procuring them?—The black teas are placed almost entirely at our option; and we have found no difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity to complete the cargoes of the ships consigned to us, although we have often been obliged to supply deficiencies in the delivery of contract teas by purchasing teas of lower qualities than we could have wished. With regard to the green teas, we have had to meet the competition of the Americans; and then we were unable occasionally to purchase the teas we wished, they giving higher prices for them than we deemed it advisable to do.

4862. Do you find that the teas you purchase in the open market have been dearer than those you purchased by contract?—They have been so sometimes in regard to green teas; but we generally purchase by the same scale of appreciation as is adopted for the regulation of the contracts.

4863. And with the same persons?—Yes; and we never purchase any teas except of the Hong merchants.

4864. Does the contract price vary from year to year?—With regard to the bulk of teas, it does not; as regard some classes of the green teas and souchong, it does. We vary the prices of them a little, to endeavour to get a supply more suited to the demand, and also to meet the competition of the Americans.

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4865. Have you increased the price of green teas?—Yes, occasionally; when we had to contend with an active competition.

4866. Has the price of black tea diminished?—A diminution took place in the year 1825, of one tale per pecul on the principal contract—black teas; namely, on the congou teas.

4867. What was the whole number of tales per pecul you had paid for the black tea previous to the reduction?—It was divided into four classes, at 26, 27, 28, and 29 tales per pecul respectively, and we reduced each of those classes one tale.

4868. How is that contract price fixed?—Those prices have been fixed for a long series of years past; why they were so originally fixed I am not able to say; those prices were established when I went to China, more than twenty years ago.

4869. When the Hong merchants have contracted with the Company for a certain supply of tea, what do they do for the purpose of procuring that tea?—They make other contracts with native dealers to bring down the tea, and make them advances generally to the amount of about one-third of the value of this tea.

4870. How long previous to the delivery of the tea is that advance made?—About six months.

4871. What is the usual interest of money at Canton?—Between the Hong merchant and the merchant of the interior, from one to one and quarter per cent. per month.

4872. Have you ascertained at what price the country merchants deliver the tea to the Hong merchants?—With regard to the congou, which forms the largest class of teas, about seventeen tales and a half per pecul are paid by the Hong merchants for tea of average contract quality.

4873. What charges, in addition to that price of seventeen tales and a half per pecul, are made upon the tea before it gets into the hands of the Hong merchants?—The Hong merchants estimate that three tales per pecul are necessary to cover the charges upon tea payable by them.

4874. That tea is delivered to the Company at a price varying from 25 to 29 tales per pecul?—Yes. The terms of the contracts for tea, made between the Hong and tea merchants, vary slightly from year to year; but the general practice is in accordance with the following statement. An average price is fixed, say at the rate of $17\frac{1}{2}$ tales per pecul, with an agreement that for such parcels of the tea as may be received by the Company at 28 tales per pecul an augmentation of one tale shall be made to the tea merchant; and for such parcels as shall be received by the Company at the price of 25 tales only, a diminution of half a tale shall be allowed. The prices of 17*l.*, 17*l.* 5*s.*, and 18*l.* 5*s.* per pecul, between the Hong and tea merchants, correspond usually with those of 25, 26, and 28 tales per pecul between the Hong merchants and the Company.

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4875. The profit therefore to the Hong merchant on each delivery of teas appears to be about twenty-five per cent., after deducting the interest on the advance made to the country dealer?—It is about five-and-twenty per cent., without taking the interest into consideration; no interest on the money paid in advance by the Hong merchant is charged to the country dealers; that is, the tea merchants.

4876. When a contract is made, or any engagement made, with an outside trader, are the teas delivered by him still delivered through a Hong merchant?—Always.

4877. Have you ascertained what commission the Hong merchant takes upon that delivery?—I am not able to say, but I understand it is moderate.

4878. The Hong merchants may therefore be considered in the light of brokers, taking a commission upon the sale of all the teas and the transaction of all mercantile business at the port of Canton?—In regard to the sale of teas, they act chiefly as brokers. Some of the principal merchants speculate on their own account; they send a servant to the tea country with money to purchase teas on their own account, but the poorer merchants act almost entirely as brokers.

4879. In consideration of the profits they derive from that brokerage, they make certain payments to the government?—Yes.

4880. In what manner do the Americans and other nations conduct their trade at the port of Canton?—They deal very much with what are called the outside merchants; that is, with shopkeepers; but the goods bought of those persons must all pass through the hands of some of the Hong merchants.

4881. Do those outside merchants deliver teas of as good quality as the Hong merchants?—I have understood that their teas are certainly not so good as the best of those furnished by the senior merchants.

4882. They again contract with country merchants for the delivery of those teas?—Yes, they do.

4883. In what manner do the officers of the Company's ships conduct their trade?—Chiefly with the outside merchants.

4884. The Factory of the Company do not interfere in the management of that trade?—Not in the slightest degree.

4885. Is it understood that they purchase teas of as good a quality and at as low a price as the Company?—I have understood from several of the commanders themselves, that they do not get teas on such good terms as the Company do.

4886. Do you apprehend that the Americans get their teas on as good terms as the Company?—I apprehend not, on an average of years.

4887. In what different modes does the Factory of Canton provide funds for the Company's investment?—The deficit beyond the produce of the goods

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goods imported from London and India is supplied by drawing bills upon the government of Bengal or the Court of Directors.

4888. Those bills on the government of Bengal are drawn to a great extent every year, are they not?—Yes, they are; to the extent of a million and a half or two millions of dollars; sometimes exceeding that.

4889. How are the funds provided in China which are given to the Factory for the bills they give upon the government of India?—They are the proceeds of the opium chiefly, and the exports from India generally.

4890. In what manner are the funds placed in China which are received by the Factory for the bills given on the Court of Directors?—They are also in great degree the produce of the Indian trade; those bills being used for the remittance of funds from China to India.

4891. Are the Americans in the habit of purchasing Company's bills on the Court of Directors?—No, not generally. The Americans have occasionally obtained their goods by the sale of bills on London themselves; they then come provided with letters of credit on commercial houses in London.

4892. In what manner are the sales of British manufacture conducted at Canton; in what manner is that price fixed?—The Company's servants send for the Hong merchants, and shewing them the samples, allow them a time to make their offers; the goods are then sold, either by division among the whole body of Hong merchants in shares, or they are sold to the best bidder. The cotton from India is generally sold to the best bidder.

4893. Do you mean that the cotton is generally sold to the best bidder among the Hong merchants?—Yes. The woollens are divided among the merchants according to the shares of tea we have received from them.

4894. The two transactions, however, are kept distinct?—Quite distinct. The system of barter is never resorted to in the Company's service.

4895. In what manner do you convert the invoice price of the exports from England into Chinese currency?—At the rate of 6s. 8d. per tale weight of dollar silver.

4896. Is the tale really worth 6s. 8d. English currency?—The intrinsic value of the tale, at the mint price of 5s. 2d. per ounce of standard silver, would be about 6s.

4897. Therefore, when goods which in England have cost 20s. are transferred to the Company's books in China, they appear as having cost three tales?—Yes, they do.

4898. The real cost in silver having been 18s., and not £1?—An invoice amount of £1 sterling is carried to account in our books at three tales; whereas, at the intrinsic value of the tale, that amount would be converted into three tales and about a third.

4899. What is the proportional value of the dollar and the tale?—In our books

books we carry them to account at the rate of seventy-two taels for a hundred dollars; one hundred dollars should weigh seventy-two taels. Dollars are always received by weight in China, and not by number.

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4900. When you draw bills on India, do you draw at a fixed rate of exchange, or the mercantile rate of exchange of the day?—At the mercantile rate, of the day.

4901. And the same when you draw on the Court of Directors?—Always.

4902. Then, as regards those sums, which amount to a very large portion of the sums with which you purchase the Company's investment at Canton, you obtain those funds as cheaply as any Indian merchant could obtain them?—Assuredly; and generally at a cheaper rate, in consideration of the superior security of the Company's bills. On Bengal we generally draw at the exchange of about 202 rupees for 100 dollars; whereas the intrinsic par rate would be 210 rupees per 100 dollars.

4903. How does the government of India calculate the invoice price of the goods which are sent to China?—They are stated in rupees; all their invoices are stated in rupees.

4904. How are those rupees converted into taels?—We convert them into dollars at their intrinsic value; then turn the dollars into taels at the rate of 72 taels for 100 dollars. The rate of exchange for the rupees of the different presidencies with dollars has been fixed by the Court of Directors on the basis of the intrinsic value of the coins respectively.

4905. Is the cotton so purchased in India, and paid for in dollars at the intrinsic value, obtained by the Canton treasury on more favourable terms than such cotton would be obtained by private merchants?—I presume that it is; but I am not able to state how the Bengal government purchase the cotton.

4906. Does the investment of cotton produce a profit in China?—Generally a considerable profit; there are occasions on which there has been a loss; but in general it has been a capital trade to the Company.

4907. Is much cotton sent from India by the country trade?—A good deal.

4908. It is cotton-wool which is sent?—Yes.

4909. The exports from this country, of British manufactures, to Canton, has not been upon the whole profitable, has it?—There has been a loss upon the whole annual export I believe upon every occasion; it is now reduced, I think, to about £17,000 a year; the average loss upon the whole consignments of British manufactures formerly was much more.

4910. In what manner do you calculate that loss?—The account of every commodity imported is drawn up according to the practice of private merchants, as a debtor and creditor account, in the form of an account sale.

4911. Do you consider that there was a loss when those manufactures sold in

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in China produced less bullion there than was paid for them in England?—I suppose there would be a loss in such a case.

4912. Is that the mode in which you calculate the loss?—We calculate according to the exchange I have mentioned, of 6s. 8d.; upon that the profit and loss is calculated.

4913. Would not that mode of calculation produce an appearance of profit where there was actual loss, the tale being in reality 8d. less in value than it is calculated at in the Company's books?—So it would appear, I think. According to that mode, the exports have been charged at less than the real cost; £1 sterling is charged at three tales instead of at three tales and a fraction; so that the debtor's side of the account in the China books is less than it would be if the principle of exchange were the intrinsic par.

4914. Then when those manufactures are sold they are sold for tales, which are likewise calculated in the books as being of more value than they really are?—Yes.

4915. So that in reality the loss is greater than it appears to be on the face of the account?—Without some consideration, I could not well answer that question.

4916. Has the price of British manufactures much diminished of late years in China?—The prices at which we sell them to the Chinese has been lowered.

4917. It has not, however, fallen so much as the invoice price of those manufactures in England?—Not so much.

4918. Has the sale of those manufactures been increased in China in proportion to the diminution of that price?—I do not think it has. With regard to the article of long ells, the quantity exported to China has diminished.

4919. The demand, therefore, of the Chinese does not appear to have increased in proportion to the diminution of price?—No, it has not.

4920. Do the merchants who purchase your manufactures find a difficulty in disposing of them?—They state a very great difficulty in selling many sorts of them. We have found it impracticable to obtain a remunerating price for the long ells consigned to us. With regard to the article of broad cloth, the Company export only that quantity which can be sold at a price which covers the cost and charges; and with regard to the third branch of our woollen exports to China, namely, the camlets, they have not been of late years a gainful article to the Company.

4921. Have you yourself seen large quantities of British manufactures which appeared to be unsold in the warehouses of the Hong merchants?—Yes, I have; in the warehouse of the senior merchant Howqua, who from his wealth has been the largest purchaser of them.

4922. Do you understand that the Americans have derived much profit from

from the sale of British manufactures?—I did not understand so when I was in China. I have seen it stated since my return to England that they had sold them profitably.

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4923. Have you ever been enabled to compare the quality of the manufactures they sell with the quality of the manufactures sold by the Company?—No, I have not.

4924. Does it appear to you that woollens have come more into use amongst the Chinese than they were formerly?—There is no reason whatever to suppose that; I should rather think the reverse.

4925. Have any efforts been made to extend the sale of the cotton manufactures of this country?—Several; there have been large importations on private accounts for several years past; the East-India Company have also from time to time exported cotton manufactures, but the out-turn has never covered the cost and charges.

4926. That has been less profitable than the export of woollens?—It has been so.

4927. The Chinese have a very good cotton manufacture of their own, have they not?—An excellent one; the people are chiefly clothed in cotton.

4928. Is it as cheap as the cotton of this country?—Taking into consideration its superiority of quality, in Chinese cotton cloth, it is considered by themselves as cheaper; it wears better.

4929. Do you apprehend that if the cotton manufactures of this country could be furnished at a cheaper rate than their own, and of equal goodness, there is any prejudice on their part which would prevent their purchasing them?—No prejudice, further than that I think the government would endeavour to protect their own manufactures, if the export of cotton from this country were carried to a very great extent.

4930. The Americans have not increased to any great extent their exports to China of manufactures, for the purpose of purchasing their teas, have they?—The export of manufactures to China on the part of the Americans commenced very recently; I think in the year 1819 or 1820; previously to that their exports were almost wholly in dollars.

4931. A very large proportion of their exports is still in dollars, is it not?—I understand so, from the United States; though I have been informed otherwise since I arrived in Europe.

4932. They also give bills?—Yes; they occasionally draw bills on houses in London to a certain extent.

4933. Do you apprehend that you can, without affecting the exchange to a considerable extent, raise a larger sum in China by bills on the Court of Directors than has been raised?—At the present time, I imagine a very

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large sum could be raised by bills upon the Court of Directors, because there is a great demand for such bills in India.

4934. It appears that in one year a sum of £500,000, or nearly £600,000, was drawn on the Court of Directors; do you recollect the circumstances under which that was drawn?—I have not an accurate recollection, but I think the government of Bengal authorized us to do it rather than draw on Bengal.

4935. Do you recollect whether the drawing so large a sum affected the exchange?—I think the exchange was at that time 4s. 6d. or 4s. 4d. the dollar, which, as compared with the exchange now at 4s., was high.

4936. You never found any difficulty in obtaining money for bills on the Supreme Government?—No; not when we gave an adequate exchange. We have endeavoured sometimes to lower the exchange too much, and in that case we failed. The merchants preferred sending their bullion to India to taking our bills.

4937. Do the merchants receive to any great extent bullion for the opium and cotton they export to China?—It is understood that the opium is almost wholly paid for in bullion, being a clandestine trade; and in fact any other payment would be useless to the sellers of opium; they could not take goods; there is no vend for them.

4938. In whose hands is the country trade to China?—Chiefly in the hands of the mercantile houses of Bombay and Calcutta; large mercantile houses.

4939. Chiefly British houses?—Almost entirely British houses.

4940. Not with Madras?—There is a very small trade with Madras; there passes only one private ship, I think, annually between Madras and China.

4941. Is any quantity of British manufactures sent to China by means of the country trade?—Latterly a great deal of cotton manufactured goods has been brought to China by country ships, which cotton goods had been unsaleable in the Straits of Malacca.

4942. Have those cotton manufactures found a ready sale in China?—I understand by no means a ready sale.

4943. Have any woollens been sent by the country trade?—I cannot charge my memory with recollecting any woollens being sent to China of late years; some years since I recollect a quantity being sent from Bombay, which were not allowed to be landed.

4944. Is there at present any impediment thrown by the government of India, or the Factory in China, in the way of sending British manufactures through the country trade to Canton?—I should rather think not; but I am not quite certain on that point.

4945. There was at a former period?—Yes; the officers of the Company's ships

ships were prohibited from exporting woollen goods to China, but within the last five years the Court of Directors have allowed them to enter into that trade freely; I should therefore imagine there is no prohibition whatever on that trade now.

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4946. Is the country trade a direct trade to China, or does it pass through the Eastern Islands?—A direct trade.

4947. Then is Singapore a depôt for the produce of the Eastern Islands?—Yes; country ships come partly laden with cotton, and they fill up with the produce of the Eastern Islands—with rattans and such small articles.

4948. What are the principal articles, in addition to the dollars, received in exchange for the opium, which the country trade carries back to India?—Tea, sugar, silk, drugs of various kinds: the annual statements of the trade which are sent home to the India House will shew that accurately.

4949. By far the largest portion of those returns are made in dollars, are they not?—At Bombay there is a larger demand for Chinese produce than on the other side of India; there is always, in addition to the returns made by the Company's bills, a large annual export of silver to Calcutta and to Bombay.

4950. Do the officers of the Company's ships purchase any other articles than teas?—Drugs, raw silk, and nankeens are the principal articles.

4951. Do they purchase nankeens to any extent?—I believe within the last three or four years they have not; previously to that they did.

4952. The Americans have given up, to a great extent, the purchase of any articles but teas, have they not?—So I understand. As regards silk manufactured goods, I have heard American agents state that they could be better supplied from England than from China; and that they expected, in a very short time, the English silk manufactures would entirely supplant those of China in the market of the United States.

4953. When you extended the demand for black tea, did you find any difficulty in obtaining it?—We extended the demand for black tea very gradually, and have never found any difficulty in getting a sufficiency.

4954. Is there any difficulty in obtaining an increased supply of green tea?—We have never been able to get as much green tea as the indents from London required, notwithstanding the prices which we gave.

4955. Is it understood that it requires a peculiarity of soil and climate for the production of it?—I have understood that tea of one kind or other is grown over a very large part of China, but that tea which suits the quality of our market is grown in only a few provinces; the black tea in the province of Fokien, and the green in those of Che-Kiang, Kiang-nan, and Kiang-Si.

4956. Is it understood that the Russians are supplied with tea from a
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totally different part of the country, and with tea of a totally different description?—They are supplied from the black tea country with that species of tea called pekoe; the same species is brought to London; it is the most expensive kind of black tea which is made, and with us is only used to intermix with other teas.

4957. Is it understood that the woollens are sent to every part of China?—So it is said.

4958. Are they subject to heavy duties of transit?—There is a considerable transit duty on the frontier of every province, to which they are subjected.

4959. Do you happen to know the additional price placed on those woollens by the time they arrive at Pekin?—I have not a memorandum of that.

4960. Do the woollens of England appear to be in use in Pekin?—When we were at Pekin the weather was exceedingly hot, when woollens were not used at all; it was in the height of summer.

4961. Did you understand that they were in use?—I think it was said, not extensively.

4962. Did you understand that the manufactures of Russia were in use at Pekin?—I did not hear any thing respecting the Russian manufactures when we were there.

4963. Did you see any articles of Russian manufacture?—None.

4964. In what way are the officers of the Company's ships remunerated?—They have a small monthly pay; but their chief emolument arises from the shares of tonnage; about a hundred and three tons per ship are allotted to the commander and officers in the outward voyage from England to China and back again; in the voyages between India and China, two-fifths of the whole tonnage of the ship are allotted to the commander and officers.

4965. And the hundred and three tons between them in coming home?—Yes; between the captain and officers out and home.

4966. The teas purchased, and all the articles purchased by the Company's officers at Canton, are sold by the Company at their sales in London, are they not?—Yes; they are all taken into the Company's warehouses, and sold at the Company's sales.

4967. What duty do the officers pay to the Company upon that sale?—Upon tea, a duty of twenty-five per cent. is payable to the Company.

4968. In addition to the government duty?—Yes.

4969. That duty therefore is to a certain extent a compensation to the Company for the loss of the tonnage allowed to officers?—Certainly.

4970. Is it understood that the officers make profitable purchases of tea, notwithstanding the payment of the twenty-five per cent. duty?—I understand

stand that very few officers in the direct trade between England and China derive much profit from it.

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4971. Do they derive profit from the circuitous voyage?—Those voyages are occasionally very profitable. The commanders speculate in cotton; sometimes they gain; sometimes they lose; but upon the whole it is considered as a very gainful voyage.

4972. In what manner do they realize their fund in China for the purchase of tea in the direct voyages?—They have all small adventures outward bound; articles of small amount; in addition to that, I believe, they draw bills on England.

4973. Their situations are understood to be very valuable, are not they?—I do not consider the situation of a captain in the direct trade between England and China to be at all valuable; but it is believed that the circuitous voyages are profitable; considerable sums are paid to obtain the command of a ship, as has been supposed.

4974. In general, it is considered that they are much more highly remunerated than the commanders and officers of other trading ships, is it not?—As compared with the commanders of the ships which the Company hire for the conveyance of tea to Canada, they certainly are. I am not well acquainted with the remuneration given to the commanders of merchant ships generally in the other services.

4975. As far as your experience goes, do you apprehend that the Company derive any advantage from carrying on their trade with Canton in large ships instead of ships of smaller tonnage?—In larger ships the teas are more quickly taken on board, more readily stowed, and less injury and less breakage arises. I have understood there is a very considerable difference found in London between those brought in large and in small ships; those brought in large appear to be in the best condition.

4976. Do you apprehend that a vessel of twelve hundred tons has in that respect a decided advantage over a ship of six hundred tons?—I can speak only from hearsay; I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

4977. Have you ever heard the value of that advantage estimated?—No, I have not.

4978. In point of security, do you apprehend a ship of five or six hundred tons to be as safe as a larger ship?—I believe a seaman would consider her quite as safe.

4979. Did any collisions take place between English seamen and Chinese while you were there?—There have been three or four cases of homicide committed by English seamen on Chinese while I was there.

4980. What measures were the results of those homicides?—The Chinese immediately addressed the Select Committee, and desired they would find out the guilty persons and deliver them up to them. The Committee professed a perfect readiness to do so, and endeavoured to find out the guilty persons;

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persons ; but in no case were they successful in bringing the charge home to any particular person, therefore they refused to deliver up any person. Upon that the trade was suspended ; and here ensued a long discussion, which generally lasted six weeks or two months, at the end of which time some compromise took place. The Chinese allowed the trade to be reopened, and forewent the demand for the person to be delivered up.

4981. Do you apprehend the power exercised over the trade in the Company's factories could be as well exercised by a King's consul ?—I apprehend not ; because the Factory derive great influence over merchants by means of the trade which is in their hands, and the merchants have it in their power to influence the officers of government by their representations and explanations.

4982. As regards the country trade, could not a King's consul possess the same powers as are now in the hands of the Company's factors, and exercise those powers with equal efficiency ?—I apprehend that he might do so.

4983. If the interference of a King's consul only took place when it was decidedly for the interest of trade that it should be exerted, would not the whole commercial influence of the merchants at Canton go with the consul, and place him in the same position in which the Company's Factory now stand ?—I doubt whether the British merchants could be persuaded to suspend their private transactions for the sake of any general benefit ; therefore I consider they would not act cordially with the consul in suspending the trade, in order to induce the Chinese government to come to any reasonable terms in cases of dispute. We have seen on a late occasion that the Americans rather gave up a man whom they knew to be innocent, than submit to a detention of their ships.

4984. If power were given to a King's consul by law over British traders at the port of Canton, in what manner do you think the consul could be best enabled to exercise that power ; would it not be necessary that the ship's papers should be deposited with him ?—That I conceive would be the most effectual manner of giving him a control.

4985. Do you apprehend that smuggling could be carried on as well on the coasts of China as it is in the mouth of the harbour of Canton ?—An experiment was made about four or five years ago ; three or four small ships went with opium to the coast of China, and I understand their success in disposing of it was very small ; so much so, as not to induce a repetition of the experiment. I know of no other attempt which has been made to force a trade on the coast of China.

4986. Is there considerable intercourse carried on between Manilla and Canton ?—A good deal of intercourse in small vessels between Macao and Manilla.

4987. By whom are those small vessels navigated ?—They sail under the Spanish and Portuguese flags ; but it is understood that a great many of them are the property of Chinese resident in Macao or Manilla.

4988. What

4988. What are the cargoes of those ships?—They import the produce of the Malay Archipelago—rattans, betel nuts, birds'-nests, black wood, and the general produce of the Malay Archipelago.

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4989. Is there any trade now between the north-west coast of America and China?—I think there is generally one American ship about every two years, which comes from the north-west coast of America to China.

4990. Do the Chinese carry on any considerable trade with Japan?—I understand they are allowed to trade only in one part of Japan; and that they are more restricted and watched than even the Dutch who are allowed to trade to the port of Nangasacky.

4991. Are great facilities given to trade in the port of Canton?—I believe there are greater facilities there than in almost any port in the world.

4992. Can the Chinese talk English enough to make it easy for Europeans to deal with them?—The whole commerce of the port of Canton is carried on by means of broken English.

4993. So that an Englishman arriving at that port would find less inconvenience than he would in a port of France or Italy?—I should conceive so.

4994. Do you apprehend that, as regards the purchases of all teas in China, the Company carry on their trade as advantageously as any private individuals?—I should say, certainly.

4995. That if an individual makes profit by his purchases of teas in China, the Company could do so without the advantage of any monopoly?—I see no reason why they should not.

4996. Their purchases in China being effected as cheaply as those of individuals?—Certainly.

4997. So that if any greater difficulties are thrown in the way of their conducting their trade, under present circumstances, than in the way of individuals in conducting that trade, they must arise from charges not connected with the original purchase of the teas; greater freight, or greater charges in this country, or other circumstances not connected with the original purchase of teas?—Yes; they certainly have every advantage in carrying on the trade which any individual could have.

4998. Do not their large capital and their long establishment in the country give them great facilities?—I think so.

4999. Would it not be difficult for any individuals to contend against them on equal terms?—I do not see why a mercantile house provided with adequate means should not enter into the trade on nearly the same terms.

5000. But their capital and their long connection with China would give the Company great advantages?—It would give them some advantages, no doubt.

5001. Have

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5001. Have there been any improvements in the quality of the cotton which is imported into China from India?—The importations of cotton-wool from India vary very much in quality; some are good, and some are very indifferent. The Chinese frequently complain of portions of the importations of cotton being discoloured and of bad quality. The very best cotton-wool imported into China is brought by the Company. I do not however mean to say that the whole of the Company's cotton is superior to that imported by private merchants.

5002. Is no American cotton introduced into China?—I think an experiment was made with a few bales once, but that it was found not to answer. It is more expensive than the Indian cotton. The Chinese would not give a price equivalent to the difference of the invoice cost of Indian and American cotton.

5003. In the event of a reduction of the duties on tea in this country, and a greater demand arising in consequence, would there be any difficulty in obtaining a proportionate increase of quantity in China?—With regard to the green teas, we have found that the quantity produced has very slowly increased, notwithstanding we have exerted ourselves much to have it increased. With regard to black tea, I imagine that the quantity might certainly be gradually increased. We have never yet been able to obtain a full supply of green teas of suitable quality.

5004. You were understood to say that in some teas you have had difficulty, in consequence of competition with the Americans?—Yes, in some species of the green teas.

5005. They offered higher prices?—They outbade us. A great part of our green teas we secured by previous contracts; those of course were delivered to us; but when we wanted others, and wished to purchase in the market teas brought down by individuals with whom we had not contracted, it has occurred that we could not deal with them, the Americans giving higher prices than we thought ourselves justified in giving.

5006. Are the cotton goods exported from this country by the Company of the same description as those worn by the mass of the population in China?—They are chiefly such as the Chinese use in their garments; long-cloths they call them.

5007. They were calculated for the wear of the poorer classes of people?—Exactly so; similar to the Chinese, but finer in fabric.

5008. You state that the Chinese cottons are, taking quality for quality, cheaper than British cotton?—Their cotton manufactures they say themselves are cheaper; they wear so much longer. The prime cost is dearer.

5009. How do they spin their cotton; by hand or machinery?—By hand.

5010. Do you know any thing of the comparative price of that cotton spun by hand, and cotton-twist manufactured in this country?—I am not
able

able to give that information. The exports of cotton-twist took place after I left China. 8 June 1831

5011. You do not know to what extent any attempt has been made to supply cotton-twist from hence?—No; I merely heard that such attempts had been made by the Company and by individuals, but I am not accurately informed. I think the last year there was a large shipment by the Company. F. H. Tupper, Esq

5012. Have you understood there was a ready sale for cotton-twist?—I have heard that there was a prospect of its paying the cost and charges, and that in consequence the East-India Company were going to export some.

5013. Are the various sorts of tea, whether black or green, now imported into this country, the same as used to be imported formerly in the earliest stages of the trade?—Very much so. The tea upon the whole has been improved in quality by the attention which has been paid to it; for instance, that called bohea now is very superior to that which bore that name fifteen or sixteen years ago.

5014. But it is the same tea, only more carefully prepared?—Yes; it is the lowest kind of black tea, but it is more carefully assorted, so as to exclude the coarser leaves of the plant.

5015. It loses its flavour by being kept, does it not?—Green tea does lose its flavour, but black tea is said to keep for two or three years without injury, if kept in a dry place.

5016. When the Company contract for teas, do they require the teas of a certain season?—The leaves of which the contract teas are made are picked and manufactured between the months of May and August, and are shipped during the succeeding winter.

5017. At what time are they brought into the market here?—They remain, I believe, a year in the warehouses; there is always a year's stock in the warehouses on hand. They are nearly a year old by the time they arrive in England; then they remain another year in the warehouses.

5018. You stated that there were heavy transit duties on woollens in China; do you know how they are levied?—At custom-houses, which we saw as we passed through the country, between one province and another.

5019. How are the goods carried?—By the canals.

5020. Do you know to what extent the duties raise the price of the woollen goods before they reach the northern provinces of the country?—I cannot say.

5021. Are the duties evaded?—There is a great deal of smuggling carried on in China. The interior of the country is said to be well supplied with opium, the whole of which must be smuggled.

5022. How are the Russian teas conveyed from China to St. Petersburg?—I am not aware how they are sent; I should think they go by the grand canal

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canal to the north, to Pekin. I am not aware of the route between Pekin and Kiatca.

5023. Do you know the length of time it occupies in conveying them from Pekin to Petersburg?—No, I do not; we were four months coming down from Pekin to Canton.

5024. You stated that a large ship had great advantages in the stowage of the tea, as compared with a smaller one?—The chests are stowed much more rapidly, are less liable to be broken, and less damage is found to occur in the cargoes.

5025. In what respect is there greater damage as regards the voyage on board a smaller ship than a larger one?—The Company employed small ships to take teas to Canada, and have occasionally freighted with the same article small ships from China to London. I have heard that the teas taken in those small ships were in a much worse condition than those taken in the large ships; that the packages were more broken, and they were injured also by leakage. In the year 1815 there was a number of small ships employed in the China trade, and I understood the teas taken by them turned out badly, in comparison with that imported in larger ships.

5026. Should you think that a land carriage of several thousand miles would be less likely to damage packages than a long voyage in a ship of 600 tons?—No. I should think they would be extremely liable to be damaged in a long land carriage. We know that a great deal of damage arises in bringing down the teas to Canton from the tea country; there is considerable loss sustained therefrom in every year.

5027. The question refers to the transit to Petersburg?—I imagine that there is a great deal of damage sustained by the article during such a transit.

5028. Is it not understood that the tea sold in Russia is of very good quality?—Yes; but it is packed in small packages, and consists of the most valuable sort of tea only. I suppose there is more care taken of such an adventure than could be given to the vast importations of tea into Canton.

5029. What is there to prevent a person packing chests of tea safely in a small vessel as well as in a large one?—It would take a great deal more time to load them.

5030. What difference of time do you conceive there would be?—That question I am not qualified to answer; the matter has been a subject of conversation with the captains who are engaged in stowing their ships with tea, and that is their opinion.

5031. Do you think there would be more difference of time in stowing teas than other commodities?—They are obliged to use a great deal of care in consequence of the tea-chests being made of fragile wood. In what precise degree a large ship is better adapted than a small one for the conveyance of tea I am not qualified to decide.

5032. By

5032. By what class of persons are the long ells worn; for what purpose are they used?—Generally for furniture; but they are also worn by shopkeepers, and the general class of labourers.

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5033. For curtains?—Yes; and coverings of chairs and tables and beds.

5034. Are they the same sort of cloth called furniture cloth in this country?—I never saw them used in this country. It is a thin manufacture.

5035. The demand for them, you say, has fallen off in China?—It has not increased; the exports certainly have diminished, as compared to what the export of 1820 was.

5036. If other persons export an equal quantity, then the demand cannot be said to have fallen off?—No; supposing that be made to appear.

5037. Camlets are universally used in China, are they not?—No, they are not; they are used chiefly for furniture, more than for clothing.

5038. Do you know in what manner the Americans conduct their trade with the outside merchants; do they carry it on as a trade of barter, or make it two transactions?—The Americans generally go into the market provided with dollars, therefore barter does not enter into their transactions.

5039. When they offer manufactures, what is done?—They sell manufactures to a small extent, and they observe a great deal of secrecy as to their mode of disposing of them.

5040. Have you heard it stated that the Americans make a profit on the export of British manufacture?—So I have seen that stated in printed papers.

5041. From your knowledge of the trade, can you understand how that occurs?—I should not have expected such a result, from my knowledge of the trade.

5042. They either must purchase their manufactures much cheaper than the Company, or sell them dearer, to bring about that result?—Certainly they must. The Company sustain a loss on their exports generally; the Americans affirm that they derive a profit.

5043. They sustain a loss, though the tale appears to be worth 6s. 8d. in their accounts, being really worth 6s.?—Yes.

5044. Are any part of the imports the Russians introduce into China woollens?—I understand they do introduce into China a good deal of the produce of Saxony.

5045. What description of goods are they; the finer woollens, or the coarser?—We had some specimens sent down to us a few years ago of the coarse woollens, and in consequence of that we sent them to England, and had cloth of the same kind manufactured and returned to Canton; but it would not realize the cost and charges, and the experiment was not repeated.

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5046. Do you not conceive the cost and charge of conveying Saxon cloth to China by land greater than that of conveying to Canton by sea, and then sending them up the country?—That I am not able to say.

5047. Have there not been occasions on which the junior Hong merchants have lent their names for the purpose of conducting transactions directly with the country merchants?—The junior merchants were very much embarrassed, and in fact bankrupts; the Company's servants wished to support them, to keep up a number of persons with whom they might deal; and, on their part, they contracted with country merchants for the delivery of teas, which were paid for at once, direct from the Company's factory. The object was to keep up a number of Hong merchants, that we might not be placed entirely within the control of three or four senior Hong merchants.

5048. Practically you stood, in your dealings with the country merchants, in the position in which the Hong merchants usually stand; engaging with them directly for the price of the teas?—Yes.

5049. Did you find that you contracted on better terms?—The contract was made with the country dealers on the same terms on which the senior merchants contracted with their dealers; the teas were brought to the Company according to the scale of prices adopted by the tea trade generally.

5050. Did you not in that case make, as an additional profit, the profit of the Hong merchant, deducting only that paid to the merchant for the use of his name?—The profit went of course to the junior Hong merchant; he had the whole profit allowed to him, as a mode of paying off his incumbrances. The object was to restore them to a situation of efficiency, that they might bear competition with the senior and richer merchants.

5051. He was allowed to have the same benefit as he would have had if he had traded with his own money?—Yes; just so.

5052. It has been stated that the teas brought by the Americans and others to Europe and elsewhere are of inferior quality to those imported to this country by the Company; is that so?—I believe they are so generally.

5053. Do you conceive that that tea of an inferior quality, so imported into Europe, is inferior to the mixture of dry sloe and ash leaves sold in this country for tea?—That is very probably not the case; but never having drank tea abroad, I cannot say. But the Americans think that they drink better tea than we do here, though they acknowledge that the tea they export from Canton is not so good as ours.

5054. Why have the East-India Company never endeavoured to introduce into consumption in this country that inferior kind of tea?—I believe it is because the tea-brokers, and those most conversant with the trade, have strongly recommended to them not to introduce that kind of tea; and that they acted upon the recommendation of the tea trade.

5055. Would

5055. Would the brokers have the power of imposing such a restriction upon the sale of tea if the importation of tea was more open in this country?—The brokers have the best opportunities of getting information, as I understand, regarding the peculiarities of the market. In the despatches we have received from the Court of Directors, they have always dwelt on the necessity of our keeping up the quality of tea, by not sending any such as would bring the article into discredit.

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5056. Were you in China at the time the Americans first engaged in the trade to Canton?—There was a large trade carried on by the Americans when I first went out, in 1805.

5057. Can you state that the improvement in the American teas has kept pace with the improvement which you describe to have taken place in the teas of the East-India Company?—I have no means of answering that question.

5058. Are you aware of any instances in which English, European, or foreign capital has been lent to the Hong or other merchants at Canton, so as to establish a direct interest between them and foreigners?—The junior merchants, and indeed all but two or three of the senior Hong merchants, have been in the habit of trading on capital furnished them by the houses of agency and others in Canton.

5059. Are such transactions carried on without any difficulty from the Chinese government or the Chinese laws?—I believe the Chinese laws will not recognize the right of Chinese to borrow money of Europeans.

5060. But, practically speaking, are such loans made, and the benefit of them received, without inconvenience, by foreign agents or capitalists?—I consider the agency houses to which I allude would, in a majority of cases, not have advanced money to the merchants without an understanding, that if the teas on which it was advanced were purchased by the Company, the money should be returned to them from the Company's factory, without going into the merchant's hands.

5061. Then they have to a certain degree the security in their own hands?—In that case they have security, and that to a considerable extent. If the teas, when brought to Canton, prove of such an inferior quality that the Company will not purchase them, then the lender would have no security but the honour of the Hong merchant.

5062. Are such loans made upon interest, or the expectation of receiving a participation of the profits?—In all cases of which I am informed, the loans were made at the rate of interest of one per cent. per month.

5063. Do you conceive that to be the established interest in China, or the particular interest attaching to those transactions?—I have understood that to be the usual rate, but I have known one and a-quarter per cent. paid by Hong merchants who have been obliged to borrow. A good deal of the trade of the junior merchants of late years has been under the control of the

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the Company's Committee. From the distressed situation of those merchants, we could not allow any of our imports to go into their hands until the money for which they were sold was brought to the factory. In some of those cases a deduction of one and a-quarter per cent. was made on the price given by the native dealer who purchased the goods of the junior Hong merchant, in consequence of prompt payment.

5064. Has any capital been advanced in the way you describe by Americans?—I have understood, largely; but there was no understanding between the Company's servants and the Americans with regard to the capital so advanced. I know it is a fact that large sums have been advanced by one American merchant to Hong merchants.

5065. Have you understood that the Americans have experienced any difficulties with regard to the reimbursement of such goods, or the profits arising from their employment, which have not been experienced by English merchants making similar advances?—No; I am not aware that they stand in a worse situation; excepting the cases in which certain British merchants advanced cash to Hong merchants, with an understanding with the Company's servants. That has been mentioned above.

5066. Will you state the causes of the distressed situation of the junior merchants at Canton?—The improvident conduct of the merchants, and their speculative habits.

5067. You stated that the teas furnished to the Americans were of inferior quality to those furnished to the Company; do you apply that observation to all descriptions of teas, or only particular descriptions?—We understand, generally, that the quality of their teas is inferior to that of the East-India Company.

5068. Do you apply that observation to green teas as well as others? Yes; they export but a small quantity of black tea.

5069. You were understood to say that they gave such high prices for green tea as the Company did not feel justified in going to?—They gave high prices for teas of low qualities, which we did not feel justified in giving; that occurred in 1825 and 1826.

5070. Their competition increased the price of green teas, did it not?—Yes, in 1825 and 1826; but it has fallen since.

5071. Is green tea as cheap now as it was before that competition commenced?—I have not heard the prices of green tea since I left China, but they had fallen before I left. The price of twankay, which forms the bulk of our green teas, has remained the same for many years past.

5072. Is the larger quantity of green tea now delivered of the same quality as the smaller quantity was formerly?—Yes, it is, I believe, of the same average quality.

5073. But there has been great difficulty experienced in obtaining the additional supply?—We have always given the Hong merchants larger orders for

for green teas than they executed; they declared they were unable to procure green tea sufficient to meet our annual orders.

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5074. That is, at the same price at which the smaller quantity has been before delivered?—Yes; at our fixed prices.

5075. Did they ask an increase of price, and say, that if they had an increase of price they could supply a greater quantity?—No, they did not. The bulk of our green teas consists of twankay, and that is a species of tea in which the Americans do not much deal; therefore they never suggested that our prices were insufficient to induce the manufacture of more, but that they could not get a larger supply.

5076. What is the species of green tea in which the Americans chiefly deal?—Hysons, hyson skins, and young hysons.

5077. Young hyson is one of the most delicate and finest teas, is it not?—It has not been thought much of in England, I understand, or the Company's officers would import it largely into this country.

5078. Has there been any difficulty in obtaining an increased supply of black tea?—We have never experienced any absolute deficiency in black tea. Some years the quantity brought down to Canton has been only sufficient to load the ships; in other years 100,000 or 150,000 chests have remained unsold at the end of the season; and then the best of them were purchased by the Company at reduced prices, to be shipped the following season.

5079. Does the Factory make it a practice to sell every year all the woollens and other manufactures they receive in the course of the year, whatever the price which may be obtained for them?—Almost always.

5080. No matter what the price?—No; except in some very rare instance, they are always sold, as otherwise they would interfere with the exports of the following season.

5081. There have not been cases in which the Directors have been advised to send out only a portion of the supply the following year, in consequence of your not being able to obtain an adequate price?—We have occasionally requested them to limit their supply; but never wholly to suspend their import.

5082. Have you ever been able to form an opinion, whether it would be possible to obtain, in the course of five to ten years, an increased supply to the extent of five or ten millions of pounds of tea from China?—That is a speculative question; but I think that the supply of black tea may be increased, and that in case of a steady demand it might be gradually increased to that.

5083. Is it black tea which is in general use throughout the country by the inhabitants?—It is.

5084. Is that tea consumed by the poorest persons in China?—Tea of some

- 8 June 1830. some kind or other is consumed by the poorest persons ; but a great deal we saw used as tea we were told was the leaf of some other plant, not tea.
- F. H. Toone, Esq.* 5085. Is tea consumed throughout China?—So we understood.
5086. It is supposed to be cultivated by individuals in their gardens ; by the lower orders of people?—It is said so. In the province of Fokien there are large districts covered with it ; it grows on the hilly grounds.
5087. Does it require any particular soil?—A light hilly ground it is said produces the best tea.
5088. Is not the shrub the same for all descriptions of tea?—That has been a disputed question, but we rather conceive it is ; that it is only the difference of culture and preparation makes the difference between black and green tea ; the crops are picked in the spring ; the first in May ; there are three selections of leaves in the course of the year.
5089. Do you know how soon the tea-plant bears leaves?—I am not aware of that.
5090. Do you know whether the Chinese government make great efforts to prevent opium being imported?—They publish annually two or three edicts, denouncing the strongest punishment on those who may be caught smuggling ; but notwithstanding that the trade is carried on with the utmost facility. It has increased within the last twenty years from 3,000 chests a year to 12,000 or 14,000 chests.
5091. Do you conceive that the efforts to prevent it are chiefly confined to those edicts?—They employ revenue boats to cruise and intercept the smugglers ; but the commanders of those boats are understood to be bribed, and often to be the persons who convey the opium from the ships to the coast.
5092. Do not you apprehend that there would be a considerable demand in this country for that species of tea which you conceive the tea brokers are averse to the consumption of?—I should think they were the best qualified to judge of the kind of teas suitable to the market. We have always understood that the way to extend the consumption of tea in this country was to maintain the quality of the article ; such has been the principle always held out to us for our guidance in China.
5093. You think that in excluding that species of tea they have acted solely on that ground?—I conceive so. There is a very large quantity of cheap tea sent to England, but it is always of a sound and good quality. The prices of teas are very much diminished at the Company's sales, in consequence of the vast quantities put up ; the average price has been much decreased.
5094. Is there any species of European woollen manufacture for which you think there is an increasing demand in China?—None.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, One o'clock.

10 June 1830.

*J. Bates, Esq.**Die Jovis, 10^o Junii 1830.*

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

JOSHUA BATES, Esq., is called in, and examined as follows :

5095. You are an American merchant, are you not?—I am an American ; I have resided here for the last twelve years as a merchant in this country.

5096. You have been largely connected with the trade with China, have you not?—Since my residence here, I have been connected with the trade to China and other parts of India ; and for many years in America I was connected with the India trade.

5097. Are you a partner in any house in China?—I am not ; I am now a partner in the house of Baring, Brothers, and Company, of this City.

5098. What is the nature of your connection with the China trade?—Baring, Brothers, and Co. have managed as agents for a house largely connected in the China trade residing at Boston ; they have a branch at Canton ; we have acted as their correspondents here.

5099. Is this part of the concern of Baring, Brothers, and Company?—It is ; it is a part of their business.

5100. What interest have you in the trade conducted by that house ; merely that of an agent?—Merely that of an agent for the house at Boston.

5101. You receive a commission upon all purchases in this country?—We receive a commission.

5102. Do you sell in this country for that house?—Until recently we did not ; latterly we have sold considerable quantities of raw silk, received by way of the United States.

5103. Raw silk imported into the United States from China, and from thence into this country?—Yes.

5104. Has silk been imported into this country, under those circumstances, to a great amount?—Probably to the extent of two or three hundred thousand pounds sterling ; perhaps one hundred thousand pounds in the course of the year.

5105. Is that raw silk only?—Yes ; there are importations of silk manufacture in the same way.

5106. Have those importations been conducted through your house?—A great portion of them.

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5107. Have they been to any considerable extent?—I do not recollect precisely the extent, but I should think to the extent of twenty or thirty thousand pounds.

5108. Has that importation of raw silk from America been profitable?—It depends on the fluctuations in the market; at times it has been profitable, at other times there has been a loss; last year it was rather a losing trade.

5109. Has the American trade with China, as far as it has been conducted in manufactures, been an increasing trade of late years?—So far as my knowledge goes, it has rather increased; I cannot speak positively as to the whole of it, but I should be inclined to think it had increased; that which has been under our management has increased.

5110. Can you state what articles of manufacture, other than those transmitted by you to China on American account, form part of the American investments in a voyage to China?—I am not aware that there are any other articles that are not included in the shipments we have made. I believe we have sent, generally, many things which have not been sent before, as an experiment.

5111. Will you enumerate the different articles of manufacture which you have exported from hence to China?—I will state those which are generally known. It not being a business which is our own, I do not know whether it would be right for me to state the particulars of articles which may lead to profit, and which belong to the house in Boston; but the articles we have shipped are chiefly those which are shipped by the East-India Company.

5112. Woollens and cottons?—Yes, and metals; and opium has been a great article; there are many other articles, but I believe they are unknown to the public; and it would probably injure our correspondence were I to name them so precisely as that any other person could come into competition with them in the shipment of them.

5113. Has their export of woollens increased?—I think the past year of shipment has been larger than it had previously been.

5114. Can you state the amount of it in the past years?—In the year 1826, it was £120,000; in 1827, £82,000; in 1828, £98,000; in 1829, £147,000; to 1830 I cannot speak precisely, but I remember one cargo alone was £160,000, but that included a considerable portion of opium; I think, however, it has been larger during the present year than at any former period.

5115. Do you think that those adventures have been upon the whole profitable?—I have no doubt they have been profitable to a certain degree; that they have not given large profits, but there has been a regular small profit upon them; that is my impression, though I had not the settlement of these matters, and therefore cannot speak positively.

5116. Have you exported any large quantity of cottons?—Generally there

there are a considerable proportion of cotton manufactures in the different investments.

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5117. The account you state was the total amount of value of the whole exports?—Yes, the total amount of value of the whole exports by the house with which I am connected.

5118. Can you state what portion of that amount consisted of woollens?—I should think two-thirds the whole amount, except this year; there was a large exportation of opium in the operations of this year, which alone amounted to £100,000.

5119. Was the export of woollens less this year than in previous years?—More; the cotton goods were rather omitted this year.

5120. What has been the value of the cotton manufactures exported in each year?—I am not able to answer that question very precisely; I should think to the extent of £30,000 to Canton alone; that does not include the Manilla market.

5121. Has that been an increasing export?—Since the year 1819 it has increased very much to that quarter; perhaps during the past year or two the business has been rather over done to the Manilla and Batavia market and to Singapore, which has rather diminished the direct shipments to Canton.

5122. Are you aware that it appears by the accounts presented to Parliament, that there has been a very considerable diminution in the American trade to China of late years?—I am aware that it has diminished after the year 1826; I think the trade was very much overdone at that time; that, like the trade of all other places, there has been a diminution since that period; but it is now recovering again, and probably, during this year, it will be greater than it was the last.

5123. At what period do you consider the trade to have been overdone?—In 1825 and 1826.

5124. By the account before the House the imports into China in 1825 and 1826 appear to have been smaller than in previous years?—Perhaps it will be necessary to take the year previous to that as showing it. The imports into China by the American vessels in the years 1825, 1826, and 1827, were 7,913,810 dollars, the exports during the same period 8,335,788 dollars; in 1826 and 1827 the imports have fallen to 4,243,617, and the exports to 4,373,891.

5125. From what paper do you take that statement?—This is a statement furnished by the correspondents of our house.

5126. Have you compared that with the paper number 25, in the papers presented to Parliament in the last year?—I have not compared it, but I believe it corresponds with that paper. I have it for twelve years, from 1815-16, and I find it set down in 1824-25 rather higher; 8,900,000 dollars.

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5127. Does the paper in your hand distinguish the sale value of merchandize imported into China by the Americans from the value of the bullion or the dollars?—It does not; it includes merely the value in dollars of the imports and exports.

5128. Have you any knowledge of the value of merchandize imported into China by the Americans in each of those years?—I could give a statement of that, I have it not here; generally, I should say it was somewhere near five millions of dollars in specie.

5129. Can you state the value of the merchandize imported in each year?—I could give a statement of it, but I have not the statement with me; it is contained in a book.

5130. By the account presented to Parliament it appears that the largest import of manufactures upon the part of the Americans into China took place in the years 1821-22, in which year that import amounted in value to 3,074,741 dollars, whereas in the last year in this account, 1826-27, that import amounted only to 2,002,549; have you any means of stating in what articles of manufacture that import had fallen off?—I am not able to state precisely on what articles the import had fallen off. I should infer from the statement that probably in that year there was a large importation of furs from the north-west coast of America, and probably a good deal of ginseng from the United States—an article that sometimes bears a great price in Canton.

5131. By the account it appears that the importation of furs was greater in the year 1823-24 than it was in the year 1821-22; is the value of those furs considerable?—In former times it was very considerable; to the extent, I should think, in some years, of a million of dollars; but latterly, I think, it has fallen off, perhaps half a million.

5132. It appears that in the year 1806-7 the total number of furs imported amounted to 298,949, and in the year 1811-12 to 367,215; that in the year 1825-26 the import was 65,958, and in the year 1826-27, 73,575; can you explain to what circumstances that great diminution is to be attributed?—In the early period named the trade was much more lucrative, there were a greater number of ships engaged in it, and the price of furs at Canton had been maintained at the same rate; but of late years the trade has dwindled to a very trifling amount; there are very few persons engaged in it, and it does not yield much profit.

5133. Can you explain under what circumstances that trade has so much fallen off?—I am inclined to think the limits of the trade are rather reduced by the regulations of the Russians; they are not allowed to cruise so far north as formerly; and probably from this, that there is a scarcity of furs; that they cannot collect so many as formerly, particularly the fur seals; the number is very soon reduced.

5134. Are they thesea otter skins?—Yes, in part.

5135. Are you acquainted with the expense of the establishment of the house

house in China; the number of persons engaged in carrying on their business?—Formerly there were Mr. Cushing, and he had a clerk, and sometimes he might have two; latterly there has been Mr. Forbes, and he has had a young gentleman with him; there is no other establishment beyond that of the servants in the factory.

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5136. What may have been the extent of exports from China which may have passed through their hands in the course of a year in value?—It varies considerably from year to year; some years it has not been more than a million of dollars, in other years it has amounted to two millions, or more.

5137. Has that house been in the habit not only of conducting at Canton their own business, but likewise acting as agents for other persons?—They have been confined to their own business for the last eight or ten years.

5138. Are you aware of the amount of commission charged by agents at Canton?—The established commission, I believe, is two and a half per cent. for American business; they generally return to the supercargoes one per cent., and that, I believe, varying I suspect according to the sort of bargain they make at the time.

5139. The real commission paid to the agent then is only one and a half per cent.?—The general commission is two and a half per cent., and every ship which goes there has a supercargo who is charged to manage the ship; he endeavours to make the best bargain he can with regard to commissions, and I should suppose that at least one per cent. was returned to him, which forms his portion of the profit.

5140. The whole is two and a half, and the advantage to the agent is one and a half?—Yes.

5141. With whom do the Americans conduct their trade at Canton; with the Hong or the outside merchants?—Generally with the Hong; but they trade with the outside merchants whenever they find it for their interests.

5142. Did you ever understand that they had experienced a difficulty in procuring all the green tea they required?—Green tea is not so abundant as black, but I have never heard that they found any difficulty in obtaining as much as they wanted; it certainly yields a greater profit at the present moment than any other kind of tea, and from that it might be inferred that there is a deficiency of it; but it never occurred to me before.

5143. Has the export of green teas altogether increased from Canton of late years?—I should say it has considerably increased.

5144. Do the Americans purchase their tea on as good terms as the Company?—I have no doubt they do, on quite as good terms; they sometimes buy on contract, but more generally in the open market, after the teas have arrived.

5145. You mean by buying by contract, that they have made a previous contract for the delivery of so much tea without seeing it?—Yes, so much tea of a given quality. The tea is brought in November and December.

5146. What

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5146. What proportion do you apprehend the quantity of tea they purchase on contract bears to the total quantity they purchase at Canton?—For the Americans, I should say it bears but a small proportion, perhaps not ten per cent. on their tea.

5147. By whom is the tea brought into Canton which is sold in the open market?—It is brought by tea merchants from the interior.

5148. Is it brought by the same description of persons with whom the Hong merchants contract for the delivery of teas?—I cannot speak as to that, but I conclude the same description of merchants; perhaps not the very merchants with whom the Hong merchants may be in correspondence, but persons having tea from the interior.

5149. Do the Americans purchase their teas of those country merchants who bring the tea into Canton?—They buy from the Hong merchant, or from the outside merchants, who are another description of merchants, not from those bringing the tea from the interior.

5150. Are the Hong merchants purchasers of tea on their own account?—So far as they contract with foreigners. I have no doubt they make also a contract with the tea merchants in the interior; beyond that, I should not suppose they purchase very largely.

5151. When the Americans purchase teas in the open market, they purchase teas which have been contracted for by the Hong merchants?—Some of them do, those who buy from the Hong merchants; I should say those which the Hong merchants have contracted for, or which have been placed in their hands for sale from one or other of those causes.

5152. Has the price of green tea been increased by the competition which has taken place?—Particular kinds of green tea have advanced; imperial and gunpowder, I believe, is dearer now than it was a few years ago.

5153. Are not the Americans in the habit of buying some sorts of tea that do not ordinarily form a part of the investment of the East-India Company?—They are, particularly the high-priced green teas, which are very rarely brought here.

5154. Do you know what proportion in value of that investment consists of that description of tea which is not imported generally into this country?—I have here a statement of exports to the United States for the season of 1828-29; it would give an idea of the proportion of the different sorts of teas shipped to America. I can read the totals: of each kind of bohea 700 chests, Souchong 16,447 chests, Pekoe 190, Hyson Skin 17,788, Twankay 5,707, Young Hyson 24,169, Hyson 10,512, Imperial and Gunpowder 4,582; making a total of 80,498 chests.

5155. What is the weight of a chest?—From seventy-two to seventy-six pounds.

5156. It appears by the accounts presented to Parliament that, in the year ending the 30th of September 1826, the quantity of tea imported into the United

United States amounted to 10,098,900 pounds, and in the following year, ending the 30th of September 1827, to 5,875,638; to what circumstances do you attribute that great falling-off in the year 1827?—The trade had been very much overdone; the consumption of the United States I should not consider more than between six and seven millions of pounds, therefore it was a very great excess of importation, which would naturally adjust itself; I believe there was at that time a great deal of money lost by importations of teas from Canton, and that the subsequent short importations have reduced the stock, so that the business is now in a wholesome state again.

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5157. It appears that the exports of tea from the United States in the year 1826 amounted to 2,804,753 pounds, and in the following year to 1,626,417 pounds, the decrease being 1,178,336 pounds; can you account for the great falling-off in the export of tea from the United States in that year?—The export of tea from the United States depends entirely upon the state of the Dutch and Hamburg markets; it is exported to those markets and to France; and I do not know whether any inference could be drawn from the fact, that the exportation was diminished or increased, only that the foreign markets furnished a better market than could be got at home.

5158. Do you apprehend that the consumption in America varies much from year to year?—I do not think the consumption of America increases so much as it would in other countries; they are not great tea-drinkers; they are more generally consumers of coffee; the consumption however has increased pretty regularly.

5159. It appears that the exports of tea from Canton, for European consumption, were in the year 1825-26, 1,360,800 pounds, and in the year 1826-27, 357,966 pounds; do you apprehend that so great a falling-off in the exports of teas for European consumption from Canton in those years, taken in conjunction with the falling-off in the exports from America of teas in nearly the same period, would have taken place, had not the sale of American teas on the Continent been materially interfered with by the import of teas of other nations?—I should draw that inference from it, that the sale of teas of the American importations must have been interfered with by importations of other nations; of late years the Dutch Company has endeavoured to supply Holland fully.

5160. Is it understood that they have carried on their trade with profit?—On the contrary, with very considerable loss.

5161. They have however succeeded in materially interfering with the American trade?—For a time they have; for the present the Dutch Company have desisted; they have sent out only half their number of ships this year, and there is more room for Americans or for foreigners; the prices are now improved, yielding a small profit.

5162. Do you apprehend that, in consequence of that competition between the

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the Americans and the Dutch, the price of tea during the last year, on the Continent, can have been considered to be a remunerating price?—During the last year it has paid a reasonable profit; up to last year it was difficult to gain by tea to the Continent.

5163. In your opinion, may the prices at which it has been purchased in the course of the last year on the Continent be considered as fair average prices, remunerating for the cost of import?—I should say they are, certainly.

5164. Should you say the same as to the price in America towards the close of the last year?—I could not say the same of the United States the last year; the early part of the present year, however, they have been obtaining fair prices.

5165. You would consider the prices of Boston and New York in October and November of last year, rather below a remunerating price?—I should think they were; there has been a good deal of embarrassment in that section of the country, and, as is usual under those circumstances, there has been no speculation in merchandize, and the prices have been lower in consequence.

5166. Are you aware whether the Americans import into China any manufactures bearing the same name as the manufactures of England, but not actually manufactured in this country?—I believe very considerable; that is, considerable for the United States. Shipments have been made to Manilla and Canton of a species of cotton more resembling the white cottons of Bengal than any cotton goods manufactured here; they are stout goods; they have sold I understand very well; those goods have been imitated here at about two-thirds of the American cost, and the business from America I believe is at an end.

5167. Have you seen an account in the papers presented to Parliament last year, stating the quantities and value of British articles imported into China by the Americans in the years 1824-5, 1825-6, and 1826-7?—I have not read any of those accounts.

5168. Have the goodness to look at the account, page 46, and state whether, as far as you are acquainted with the course of trade, the manufactures there stated as British probably were of British manufacture?—I should say they were. There is a description of goods answering to the name of camlets manufactured in Holland, but the quantity is not great, and I am not aware that any were shipped during these years.

5169. Does the amount there stated as the value of British manufactures imported into China by the Americans in those several years, generally accord with your idea of what that value may have been?—In my opinion it does, about £200,000; it will have gone, I think, rather higher since that period.

5170. Are you of opinion that a British merchant would export British manufactures

manufactures to China, with more advantage than an American merchant from this country?—I do not see that he would have any advantage; Americans have the same privileges here; the only charge, I believe, they have to pay more than the British subject has to pay, is the scavage dues to the city of London; which amount to about one per cent. .

5171. Are they not returned?—They were returned for a time; but latterly, they have been insisted upon as respects any trade not direct to the United States.

5172. Do you expect there would be any greater exports of British manufactures from this country to China in the event of the opening of the trade to British subjects?—I think there would be a very considerable increase. There seems to be a complete revolution in regard to the trade of the East-Indies. The first ten years of my commercial life, I was engaged in receiving the very manufactures from India which are now carried the other way. I have no doubt that the Chinese would receive manufactures of England, and that they would go into more general consumption, if it was in the hands of private traders, as it requires considerable management to introduce the different articles.

5173. If the Americans now possess and have for several years possessed all the facilities for carrying on that trade in British manufactures which would be possessed by Englishmen in the event of opening the trade, how is it, if that trade is capable of extension, that it has not been extended much more than it has been?—It is a trade which requires great experience in the details; there are very few persons in the United States who know any thing about it. It is a trade which requires a double capital, inasmuch as they cannot rely on the sales of the goods for the purchase of the return cargo; consequently, those who have sent ships from the United States for a cargo of teas for the consumption of the United States, could not calculate on any period of the return of that ship, unless they were to send credit or dollars. The goods' business has been confined to two houses; I believe that in British manufactures they have not relied so much on the return of teas to the United States.

5174. Are you of opinion the Americans would conduct that trade to a larger extent and more advantage if they had larger capitals?—I believe there is capital enough there; but that those persons who possess that capital have not acquired a proper knowledge; but that they have it now, or will have it very soon, I have no doubt. They will carry on a greater portion of trade in a very short time.

5175. Are not the partners of the house of Perkins and Company at Canton as much acquainted with that trade as the agents of the East-India Company can have become?—Perfectly so; and it is of course their object to keep that information to themselves.

5176. They have had the means for years of extending that trade as greatly as British merchants would have had if it had been opened to them?

(4 p)

Certainly;

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—Certainly; if the tea trade is closed against them there is no mode of making a remittance beyond a certain point. I believe I have stated that on teas generally to Europe there is or has been very little profit; it has been very difficult to make a par remittance in teas; the very limited amount which can be remitted in teas to the Continent, where the consumption is very trifling compared with the consumption of England, prevents their embarking beyond any number of ships required to bring back the teas necessary for those markets. During the past year I believe the house of Perkins were the shippers of all the teas to the European markets, except those by the Dutch Company, which did not extend to more than five or six cargoes, perhaps equal to two cargoes of the Company.

5177. The American merchants of Canton having open to them the whole supply of all the world with teas, with the exception of Russia and England, do you think their market for teas is too small to enable them to extend that trade considerably; that there is a difficulty in obtaining returns?—That is a difficulty that would be in some measure removed, probably this very year, by the recent discovery that dollars are no longer wanted there; the Americans now take credit to a considerable extent, and the bills which would be thus offered in the market could be purchased as a remittance.

5178. Where do the Americans obtain those bills?—The Bank of the United States issue bills; the different banking-houses of the United States give credits upon London; those bills are taken to Canton, and are there sold, and are bought by the native merchants who trade to Canton with opium; they take the bills to Bombay and Calcutta, they are there sold as remittance to England.

5179. So that the country trade of India is the foundation of the American trade with China under this altered system?—It would be incorporated; the two trades would work very well together; but I believe the Americans have, until the present year, chiefly carried specie, dollars.

5180. It is understood that the profit in the American trade to China is made not on the import but upon the export cargo?—In the one case it is on the import, and in the other upon the export. Those adventuring from the United States, and sending dollars, rely entirely upon the manufactured silks and tea which they get in return, for their profit; but on that part in which I conceive British manufactures are concerned, there the profit on the British manufactures, I should say, was the temptation.

5181. If there were so large a profit upon British manufactures as to create that temptation, and the Americans have had, as they have had for years, the means of exporting those articles in any quantities, can you explain why they have not been exported to a greater extent than £200,000 a year in value?—It takes a double capital; and the information necessary to carry it on successfully at Canton is confined to very few; I am not aware that

that there are more than two houses in the United States which have had any knowledge of it till within these few months.

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5182. Have the Americans engaged in trade with China been in general persons of large capital?—Generally persons of large capital, or they have acquired it in the course of this trade; all the old houses, however, engaged in it have acquired fortunes. There have been failures within the last few years of persons who adventured indiscreetly beyond their means.

5183. Is it a trade generally requiring great capital, and in which great capital has considerable advantages?—It requires great capital or credit; the outlay is for twelve months, and therefore the trade cannot be carried on by persons who cannot afford to lay out of their money that time.

5184. If the trade were carried on by the subjects of England, do you think they could carry on that trade as cheaply as the Americans?—I see no reason why they should not.

5185. Do you think they would carry it on more cheaply?—I do not think they would carry it on more cheaply; except that they would have the advantage of the one per cent. which the Americans have to pay for the scavage dues. I do not know of any other difference. Perhaps the freight might be rather more on English ships.

5186. Do you know the difference between the freight of an English and an American ship?—There is not much difference with the recently constructed ships at Liverpool, where the competition is very active; they have some British vessels on the same model as the Americans, and they rank together as they lie, and sail side by side. I believe the amount of British tonnage is rather increasing; I allude to the amount of British shipping bringing cotton, for instance. I believe there is not much difference in the freight or the sailing of those ships recently constructed on approved models; they are fully equal in every way, and there is very little difference in freight.

5187. Could an American merchant ship British manufactures at Liverpool as cheaply as a British merchant could?—I believe there is no difference.

5188. The only difference is in the port of London?—Yes, in the scavage dues, which is a considerable impediment.

5189. What is the freight from England to Canton and back at this time?—I think ships could be chartered now, from 400 to 500 tons, at £6. 10s. per ton for the voyage out and home.

5190. Have you ever understood that it is more advantageous to ship teas in a vessel of 1000 or 1200 tons than in one of 600 tons; that the teas are less injured in the package?—I should think there could be no difference if the ship was perfectly dry; that the tea would come as well in one sized vessel as another.

5191. What sized ship do you consider as the most economical for the voyage

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voyage to China?—The most approved construction is about 450 tons of a particular model, which will carry more than half as much as a Company's ship, and be navigated with eighteen or nineteen men.

5192. You spoke of vessels of 600 tons as having a freight of £6. 10s?—I mentioned those because there are a great number of that description of ships here.

5193. What would be the freight of one of those vessels on an improved model of 450 tons?—In the United States a ship-owner offered to contract to supply a ship at thirty dollars per ton measurement on teas, the ton of forty cubic feet; that was for the voyage out and home; that comes to about £6. 10s.

5194. There would be no difference in the freight of a vessel of 450 and 600 tons?—Per ton there would be no difference.

5195. When you speak of £6. 10s. a ton, do you mean a ton of 40 or 50 feet?—I think a British ship would be got now at £6. 10s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

5196. What would it be for the fifty cubic feet?—I think that comes to about £8. 2s. 6d.

5197. Is not the tonnage of the East-India Company computed at fifty feet to the ton?—I understand it is.

5198. In what particulars is this great improvement that has recently taken place in vessels of 450 tons burthen?—It consists in adding much to their length; they are longer and deeper, and have a peculiar form.

5199. Does it improve their capacity without interfering with their velocity?—It improves their capacity; and their velocity is even greater.

5200. Is a vessel of 450 tons on the improved construction really a much larger vessel than a vessel of the old construction of 450 tons?—She is really a larger vessel.

5201. How many tons does she actually carry?—I suppose a ship of 450 tons on the improved construction would carry 750 tons of tea of 40 cubic feet.

5202. What is the premium on the insurance for a voyage to Canton and back?—I do not recollect what it is out and back, but I think it is outward two and a half; and I believe homeward two and a half. I have understood the Company's ships have paid three per cent., but latterly they paid only two and a half.

5203. The Company do not insure?—They do not; but there are some parties who insure their interest for similar voyages.

5204. Do the American ships last as long as the British ships?—Those that are built with care for some individuals who are very particular, I believe, last as long; but generally they do not.

5205. Upon the whole, should you consider it cheaper to navigate a British

tish or an American ship?—I think that a British ship cannot be navigated so cheap as an American. I believe there is a necessity for taking apprentice boys, which create expense; and the provisions cost rather more. I think in a long voyage it might make a considerable difference. I have stated before that it makes a quarter; but I think that is too much.

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5206. In that answer you compare the expense of navigating an American ship from America, and a British ship from England; but if both left a British port for China, would there be any considerable difference of expense in navigating them?—I believe very trifling; the only thing would be the necessity of taking those boys, which are considered by the Americans as useless.

5207. Has the trade to Manilla increased?—Very much.

5208. In what articles is that trade carried on?—In a much greater variety of articles than to China; some hardware and other descriptions of goods usually purchased by the natives.

5209. What are the articles from Manilla?—Sugar, and a species of grass which is very valuable, indigo, and tortoiseshell, and coffee.

5210. Can you state the value of the imports into Manilla in any one year?—I cannot. I have a statement of the productions of Luconia for the year 1825, which I beg to deliver in.

The same is read, and is as follows:

STATEMENT OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF LUCONIA, 1825.

					Dollars.
Indigo	3,472 Quints	..	100 dollars	..	347,200
Sugar	138,298 Pils.	say 90m. Pl. at 4 dollars	..	..	360,000
Pearl shell	2,667 Peculs	20	..	..	53,744
Tortoise ditto	3,130 Catties	7	..	..	21,910
Rice	39,906 Cabaus	1½	..	49,882	
Ditto	26,965	1	..	26,965	
Ditto, Paddy	19,783	0½	..	9,891	
					86,738
Cotton	3,109 Pls.	20	..	..	62,180
Bees' wax	1,272 Qls.	38	..	..	48,336
Avaca, Lapis	371 Pls.	5	..	1,855	
Ditto, 2d, 967	8,340	4½	..	36,915	
Ditto, rope	3,519	6½	..	21,993	
					63,463
Cocoa	390 Cabans	32	..	..	12,480
Coffee	1,615 Pls.	15	..	..	15,725
Sapan wood	24,826	150	..	..	37,239
Beche de mar	3,385	22	..	..	74,470
Birds' nests	2,543 Catties	..	..	..	3,814
Sulphur	3,696 Pls.	1½	..	..	5,544
Cocoa-nut oil	11,504	4½	..	..	51,768
Ditto ditto rum, value at price paid by government			133,047
Tobacco ditto 57,301 bales		ditto	104,092
					1,481,750
			Carried over	..	

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				Dollars.
Brought over.....				1,481,750
Cocoa-nuts.....	945,616	1 per 100		9,456
Hides, &c.:				
Buffalo.....	9,640	371		3,615
Cow.....	2,851	50		1,175
Deer.....	2,376	15		366
Tanned.....	1,983	75		1,488
Hoofs.....	293 Pls.	3 50		983
Hoofs, deer.....	68	8 50		631
Glue.....	845	2 50		2,112
Manufactures:				10,460
Cambayas.....	1,650 Ps.	75		1,237
Guinasas.....	302,356	0 15		45,353
Canvass.....	1,562	1 00		1,562
Cotton.....	36,529	50		18,265
Midunagues.....	19,895	16		3,183
Sinamayes.....	142,360	25		35,590
Tapis.....	10,771	25		2,692
Wheat.....	1,852	1 50		107,875
Ebony.....	3,168	2		2,778
Wood, timber for ship-builders, carpenters, &c. value				6,336
Pitch, value 1 50/100 per quintal		amounting to		10,931
Rattans.....				24,292
Matt Baggs.....	30,000	5		3,373
Pearls.....	110 lbs.	32		1,500
Cowries.....	12 millions	6 per m.		3,570
Cattle.....				6,000
Ground-nuts or beans.....	3,000 Cabs.	1		8,182
Onions.....	4,197 Pls.	50		3,000
Dry Fish.....				2,098
Shark fins.....	26	20		602
Indigo seed.....	57 Cabs.	3 1/2		520
Garlic.....	46 Pls.	4		183
Fish oil.....	71 Jars	2 1/2		186
Pork fat.....	366	6		160
Hats, furniture, pepper, sago, and biscuit				2,196
Articles of which I do not know the names in English.....				1,300
Sundries.....				15,374
Total value in Spanish dollars				1,703,622

Note.—The above is only the quantity brought into Manilla, and is probably very far short of the actual productions, perhaps one-third; most of it is founded upon estimates which may be quite erroneous in many instances. Their own consumption of sugar, rice, indigo, wax, rum, and tobacco is very great, as well as of all the other articles named herein. The value of rum and tobacco are put down at the prices paid by the government to the natives; they are both monopolies, and are resold at an enormous profit. The government probably receive one million of dollars for those two items; the tobacco, it is true, forms their chief financial resource.

5211. Are

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5211. Are the articles of British manufacture purchased by you here for the Americans of equal goodness with articles of the same name purchased by the East-India Company for export to China?—We always contract for the Company's quality, without exhibiting any samples, and when the goods are delivered they are examined; if they are faulty, some allowance is made in that respect. We are probably not so particular as the Company.

5212. Do you pay the same price as the Company?—I rather think that we buy cheaper; that the mode of purchasing by the Company exposes them to combination.

5213. In what way?—They advertise for tenders of a certain quantity, of camlets for instance, and I think there is nothing more easy than for the manufacturers of camlets, if they choose (I do not know that they do so), to combine. I should not think it safe to advertise in that way. We go into the open market and buy; each one being eager to have the whole of our order, will name the lowest price.

5214. The East-India Company reject many articles which you export; do they not upon the whole import into China a higher description of articles than you do?—I should think not as to quality; the dimensions are precisely the same; the goods the same; but sometimes our shipments may have some few imperfections about them; such as stains, or perhaps a piece may have a little imperfection in colour, or something of that kind, which the Company's may not have.

5215. Do you think the Company obtain a higher price for the manufactures they import into China than the Americans do?—I am not aware that they do; I should say not.

5216. It appears by the return, page 53, in these papers before you, that in the years 1816, 1817, and 1818, the tonnage cleared out from the United States for ports beyond the Cape of Good Hope was respectively 35,253, 39,169, and 36,586, and in the three years 1826, 1827, and 1828, the tonnage amounted only to 19,070, 17,078, and 14,112; can you explain the causes which have occasioned so very great a diminution in the amount of tonnage clearing out for ports beyond the Cape of Good Hope; and can you state what part of the trade, which the Americans possessed beyond the Cape of Good Hope, has failed since the last period?—I should say it might be accounted for on general principles. Peace having taken place, the trade naturally went into those channels to which it properly belonged; the Americans having in former times, from their neutrality, carried on a considerable portion of the India trade, they continued their expeditions afterwards, and that they found their mistake in about the year 1818; or perhaps the opening the trade to India might have some effect. I do not remember the precise period of that; but the American trade to Bengal is now confined to the consumption of the United States; there are no longer importations with a view to exportation to different parts of Europe; even a portion of their supply of Bengal produce is drawn from London to the United States in a variety

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variety of articles. A portion of that tonnage was employed in the trade to Batavia; the Dutch have made regulations which have destroyed their trade there; that will account for a portion of it.

5217. It appears by the account at page 28, that in the years subsequent to the opening of the trade with India, namely, 1816-17, 1817-18, and 1818-19 respectively, the tonnage of vessels clearing out from British ports in India for America, was 15,145, 18,008, and 23,944, and that in the three last years, in the years 1824-25, 1825-26, and 1826-27 respectively, the tonnage of American ships clearing out from India for America has been 3,067, 5,743, and 2,389; do you know to what circumstances is to be attributed that great falling-off in the American trade with India since the year 1818-19?—I should attribute the falling-off to the circumstance, that in time of peace all goods must go to the place of consumption in the most economical manner, and that America being a place of small consumption, they can afford to bring only the goods which they want; it will not any longer answer to export the goods to America for the purpose of being re-exported to the European markets, where they will be consumed.

5218. In your opinion, since the opening of the trade with India, the trade for the supply of England and of Europe has been carried on more economically by British ships than it could be by American ships, and the British ships have supplanted the Americans in that trade?—I do not think that will apply exactly so, as the voyage from India to America is so far out of the track. British ships have not gone cheaper, but their voyage is not so long. The regular course of the trade is to London, as the emporium of the world, as the world now stands.

5219. But since the opening of the trade with India to the subjects of England, the British merchant, having supplanted the American in the trade with India, being enabled to supply the demands of England and of Europe at a less charge, do you, from that circumstance, infer that, if the trade with China were equally opened to the British merchant, he would equally succeed in supplanting the American merchant in that trade?—Undoubtedly; the Americans would be driven out of that portion of the trade they now carry on to Europe.

5220. The produce of China would, in your opinion, be conveyed to Europe by British merchants, and not by Americans?—Yes; just so.

5221. Do you conceive that the advantage which the American shipper has at present over the British merchants depends exclusively upon the difference in the cost of navigation?—Perhaps the American merchant, from the experience of the past twenty years, is more a general speculator than the English merchant, and would therefore perhaps for a time manage it rather better than it could be managed by the British merchant; but so far as the expence of carrying it on, I know of no other difference than that I have mentioned in the difference of navigating the ships that I spoke of, that it amounted to one-quarter of the freight, which I think I reckoned rather too high.

5222. You

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5222. You conceive that, as far as relates to construction, they are nearly on a par?—I believe a great portion of the tonnage of Great Britain is in ships of bad construction for the times, that cannot carry bulk in proportion to their tonnage, and they are unprofitable in the present improved state of ship-building.

5223. Have you any doubt that were the China trade to be opened to the English merchants, the shipping of the most improved construction would be had recourse to, and with as much advantage as in America?—I have no doubt it would, though I do not think it would be done quite so rapidly; the expence of building is rather greater, which I conceive to be compensated by the lower rate of interest of money; but the cost of a ship is certainly greater than in the United States.

5224. What should you state to be the present difference in the interest of money borrowed for mercantile purposes?—I should say it was fully double in the United States for mercantile purposes.

5225. Do you conceive that the Chinese population would be more or less disposed to an increased consumption of British manufactures than that of Java, Manilla, or other parts of the East with which we have been acquainted?—I have no doubt they would as readily receive foreign manufactures as those of the places named: perhaps it would be more difficult to introduce them; but I have no doubt that they would be eventually introduced.

5226. Do you think it probable that it would be necessary to introduce them by illicit trade, or that the Chinese would be likely to admit them on payment of duties?—I should think it would be the most advisable method to let the merchants follow their own course; they understand their own interests, and they would introduce the goods if it was possible to do so with profit; whether by regular importations, or by sales from their ships along the coast, would depend upon the profit.

5227. How far is Lintin from Canton?—I think about seventy miles.

5228. There is a considerable smuggling trade carried on, is there not, at Lintin?—In opium there has been; not in other goods to any extent.

5229. What are the advantages possessed by Lintin for the purposes of illicit commerce?—It is a good anchorage; they consider that where they lie at anchor, I believe, is without the Chinese limits, and that no one has a right to disturb them.

5230. How then are the goods introduced into China from thence?—The opium is introduced from Lintin by water carriage; the boats come alongside and take the opium. I believe it is conducted in this way: a Chinese at Canton, if he wishes to buy opium, pays the money, and receives an order for the opium, which he sends with his boat to take it in at Lintin, and there the transaction is ended.

5231. Are you acquainted with the circumstances of trade having been carried

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carried on at any other ports on the Chinese coast?—I have heard that it has been; I have no precise knowledge of it.

5232. Were not American ships permitted to trade at Java when it was in our possession?—They were.

5233. Under those circumstances, had not the British merchants an advantage, generally speaking, over the American?—The British had this advantage, that he could find a great number of persons disposed to adventure and more readily make up a cargo. The American would have to take the whole on his own account: whereas the British cargo would be made up by a greater number of shippers.

5234. The Americans are excluded now from Sincapore, are they not?—I believe they have never had a right to trade there; I believe the ports to which the Americans are allowed to trade in India are all named, and that Sincapore is not named.

5235. Are other ships permitted to trade to Sincapore?—I believe there is no great difficulty in trading to Sincapore; that they go on shore and make their bargains, and go a few miles off to make transfers; that it is done in the same manner as the contracts for pepper are made at Prince of Wales' Island; that the contracts are made there, and the transfer on the coast.

5236. Are the Malays extensively engaged in the trade of those seas?—I believe the Chinese carry on the greater portion of trade in those places at Batavia; I believe the sales of British manufactures there are almost entirely by the Chinese, and at Manilla it is the same.

5237. Do you suppose that in the event of the Chinese trade being opened to the British merchant, any considerable portion of the trade now carried on by the Chinese would fall into his hands?—I think it probable that there would be a good deal of traffic from one port to another in that quarter; and there is none now; it is a growing trade.

5238. Can you state the expense of construction of ships in China?—I cannot.

5239. You cannot form any opinion as to the comparative freight of Chinese vessels carrying on the trade to the Indian seas and English vessels?—I think in the Chinese junks each man on board has his investment of goods for the market to which he is going, and his room which he rents. I believe the freight in such cases must be very dear. They only go at particular seasons of the year. British vessels, from their particular construction, would sail frequently against the monsoon in that quarter of the world, so that they would soon destroy any profitable trade by the Chinese.

5240. Are the junks equipped by merchants at Canton, or to whom do they belong?—To the Chinese merchants.

5241. And let out to traders?—They are freighted in that way; letting out

out different apartments, or so many rooms to this and that person; on return, I believe they take rice and other things, which are differently stowed.

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5242. Should you suppose that any apprehension of injury to that trade in China would cause any indisposition on the part of the Chinese to encourage English private traders?—I should think not. My impression is, that this trade is chiefly connected with the Chinese resident at different places to which they go. At Siam, I am told that the number of Chinese junks is altogether 150 or more lying in the river at a time; but there is a great population of Chinese engaged in agriculture and the manufacture of sugar, and those junks bring their supplies, and also emigrants.

5243. Is the trade carried on from hence by the Americans, according to your experience of it, increasing?—Up to the beginning of this year I should say it was increasing.

5244. Both in its total extent and in variety of articles?—I should say the number of articles have increased considerably; there have been three or four added to them, to my knowledge.

5245. There are some articles now going out as an export with respect to which you do not wish to state the details?—Just so.

5246. Have you any reason to know that there is any thing in China that precludes them from purchasing any articles that may be suited to their wants or to their tastes?—I am not aware of any regulations to that effect.

5247. And nothing in the disposition or habits of the people?—Nothing that I have ever heard of.

5248. You stated that one of the obstructions to a more extended trade between this country and China on the part of the Americans was, the necessity of American merchants possessing what you describe as a double capital; would the same obstacle apply in the same way to the British merchant carrying on the same trade to Canton?—It would not be carried on in the same way. The American ship-owner is also the merchant. The voyage from hence would probably be one where a great number of persons would consign goods for sale in China; and this they would leave more to the house in China to direct returns. The object of the American being as well to get back a cargo of teas for the American market, he cannot calculate on his teas if he uses British manufactures. But here I think the constant and regular shipment of British manufactures, with the balance of country trade, would naturally throw more British capital into Canton than would be wanted immediately for investment in tea.

5249. As far as that goes, it would give to the British merchant in the case supposed an advantage beyond that which the American merchant now has?—I should say it would, decidedly.

5250. One of the obstacles to an extended trade on the part of the Americans from hence is the want of adequate returns, is it not?—That applies

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more particularly to the circumstance that the American ship-owner is a merchant; if he was not it would make no difference; he rather wishes to employ his own ships, and in so doing he makes his returns in tea to the Continent, which comes near to his port of loading, and they probably have not found it their interest to extend their operation beyond the goods that they could make returns to Europe for.

5251. If the consumption on the Continent were materially to increase, that would be an inducement to American merchants to extend their operations, would it not?—It certainly would.

5252. If therefore the American merchant could share in the supply of tea to this country, that would extend his operations?—Certainly.

5253. So that if a British merchant were at liberty to import tea into England for the consumption of England, you conceive that would induce him to extend the exportation of British manufactures in the same way?—It would; he would have a further temptation to increase the exports of British manufactures; he could take in a number of markets in his route; there would be Batavia, Manilla, and Sincapore, without going out of his track. There is a trade between all those places and England, of course; there are always some shipments. But the American has not that advantage; he has no connection there, and of course his voyage is more direct.

5254. You stated that it occasionally happened that the goods you purchased here, which were intended to be of the same quality as those exported by the East-India Company, were sometimes somewhat deficient, or below the contract agreement?—Not to any extent as to quality; there may be faults arising from accident in the manufacture or dyeing.

5255. In that case, when any such deficiency is discovered, the goods are not rejected, but a diminution of charge takes place?—A diminution of charge takes place; the goods are made as perfect as possible; for instance, a piece that has a faulty colour, or a stain upon it, a yard would be cut out, and the piece would be invoiced a yard shorter, and of course it would not be exactly of the dimensions of the Company's, but the qualities would be the same.

5256. The quality would be exactly the same?—That is our endeavour; the contracts are, I believe, precisely the same.

5257. Have you ever exported any goods that have appeared on inspection to be somewhat inferior to the quality you have ordered?—Sometimes we are forced to do that where the goods arrive but a few days before the ship is to be despatched; there is no opportunity to return them upon the hands of the seller, and rather than have the assortment incomplete, the goods are sent off; but then it is not an inferiority of great magnitude; it may be to the amount of two per cent.

5258. Do you find any difficulty in the sale of goods which are inferior to that standard?—None that I am aware of; the Hong merchants buy them.

5259. They

5259. They give you less for them, you having paid less?—I am not aware that they give any less for them; the goods that have those imperfections are packed with those which are perfect; any thing that would not answer, that was found so bad as to occasion its being rejected, would not be sent.

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5260. They take their chance of finding some part of the consignment not so good as the remainder?—They take their chance, certainly. But I should mention the mode I adopt in order to examine them: I have a hundred pieces examined by the Company's examiner, and if I find seven out of the hundred imperfect I then examine the whole quantity, perhaps three or four thousand, and put by all that are imperfect; but if there are not more than seven out of a hundred that will not pass, then we should take no account of it; so that we go pretty nearly in our examination on the same principle as the Company.

5261. Do not you ascribe a part of the falling-off of the import of tea into the United States of America to the circumstance of the British provinces in North America having within the last three or four years been supplied directly by the East-India Company?—That must have had some effect; but the drawback on the exportation of teas from the United States, imported at less expense than the Company import them, enables them to compete with the Company in the Canadian market. I think there is no difficulty in introducing teas from the United States; still the consumption, of course, must be diminished in nearly the same ratio as the extent of sales by the Company in Canada.

5262. Has there been more fluctuation in the extent of business carried on by your correspondents' house at Canton than is usual in transactions carried on at such a distance and to such an extent?—There has been. I think they are clever men, and there is more variation where they enter into speculations than otherwise. If they found the price of tea low, they would withdraw from it; if they saw a prospect of gain, they would double their transactions.

5263. Is there any difficulty in carrying on commerce with the outside merchants?—The greater portion of the business of the house to which we have alluded is conducted by outside merchants; in the manufactured silk; that is entirely conducted with the outside merchants.

5264. Have you had reason to rely on the solidity and fair dealing of that class of dealers?—Mr. Cushing, who has resided a long time at Canton, has told me he never had a dispute with any one at Canton; that he never took a receipt for any small payment; and that he never had had a demand made upon him a second time; that it was a place of business where he had had more facilities and less disputes than any other he was acquainted with.

5265. Do you know the difference of freight between American ships of the improved construction and the Company's ships?—I have understood that

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that the Company's freight varies from eighteen to twenty-four pounds; but there are conditions about it. Those conditions, with regard to being under obligation to go as transports, or to have their destination altered, or to take a certain time, embracing a greater length of time than an ordinary charter, should make the freight different from an ordinary transaction.

5266. There are other conditions, as to number of seamen, and so on?—Yes, there are.

5267. Do you know how many tons of tea a Company's ship of 1200 tons could carry?—I cannot speak with confidence about it; but I believe they usually bring fifteen or sixteen thousand chests of tea, as they are now navigated. A ship of 450 tons, on the construction I have mentioned, would stow 7,500.

5268. In a vessel of 1000 or 1200 tons, what is the ordinary difference between the registered and the actual tonnage?—That would depend entirely on the construction of the ship.

5269. Are not the American merchant ships generally better sailors than the English merchant ships?—I should say that for some time past, or up to within a year or two, that has been the case; those ships that were constructed to sail with convoy were calculated rather for burthen than for sailing, and they are heavy sailors; but, as I remarked before, in Liverpool, where the competition is great, there are ships under the British flag that sail as fast as any Americans, and carry nearly as much, and I do not see that there is much difference.

5270. Can you state the proportion of the difference in the length of the voyage performed by an American ship and an English ship of ordinary construction?—It is impossible to calculate that; there might be one-third or more in the difference of the voyage.

5271. Does not the superior sailing of the American ship depend upon the sharpness of her build in a considerable degree?—It was formerly considered that a ship to sail must be sharp; but latterly that has been found to be a mistake; that a ship to sail requires length, and that she should have sufficient breadth; and that which is required is, that she should have a clean run, that she steer well; and when they apply the requisite quantity of canvass, they find that she sails faster than a sharp ship.

5272. Would not a ship that is built long, and at the same time broad on her beam, measure a large tonnage?—I believe, according to the English and American mode of measurement, they take two-fifths of the breadth of the beam for the hold; it depends therefore more upon the depth of the ship, whether her real tonnage is more than she measures, or whether it is out of the way; I think all those ships upon the improved model are really larger ships than they measure, being deeper.

5273. Are they built round or sharp?—They are built what the seamen term, wall-sided.

5274. Has

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5274. Has not the mode of measurement relation to the depth of the hold and bulging sides?—It has not; the breadth of beam determines the measurement depth of the hold. The gain of having them so constructed is, that they carry more burthen, and will sail equally fast with a less quantity of canvass and spars, than the other description of ships.

5275. What number of men navigate a 450 ton ship built at Liverpool?—I am not aware; but I think more by two or three, from the necessity they are under of taking boys.

5276. Do you know how many men are employed in a Company's ship of 1200 tons?—I believe 120 or 130; but then they have a great variety of duties to perform which an ordinary merchant ship does not require.

5277. What opium was that you purchased in England and sent to Canton this year?—Turkey opium.

5278. Did you ever send any before?—It is a regular business.

5279. Has the export of Turkey opium to Canton increased?—I believe it has very rarely exceeded a thousand chests; it has increased, certainly.

5280. Are you enabled to state, from your general knowledge of the trade of the East, what effect the monopoly possessed by the East-India Company in the trade with China produces on the trade of the Eastern Islands and of India?—I should say that it is a good deal in the way of it; that it is an obstruction; that it prevents the natural course of trade, which, were it free, would take place; for instance, in the country trade to China they are deprived of the means of remittance to this country or to India. If those who carry on the trade from different parts of India could carry it further on, there would be less loss of freight in ships; a ship which would go from England to Bombay and Calcutta, would go from thence to Canton; but if the ship cannot go from Canton to England, there is a return voyage without profit; while to Canton all the Company's ships go nearly empty.

5281. That affects the trade direct from England to India and China; but what effect does the present monopoly of the China trade produce on the country trade of India and the Eastern Islands?—It so far embarrasses it, that there is everywhere a difficulty, as the trade now stands, to find returns to India or Europe. Formerly it was otherwise; there was an immense amount of specie exported. It is now completely changed; the specie no longer goes to India, but importations of it take place from China by way of Singapore. Some considerable importations, to the extent of half a million of dollars, are understood to be now on the way; and from Bengal, I understand, very large sums are on the way.

5282. The Company's Factory in China giving to a large extent bills on England for funds supplied to them in Canton, do not the Company practically make those returns to England which are desired by the merchants in the eastern and country trade, and which otherwise might be made either by them or by the British merchant?—If that is the case, there is no doubt the Company

10 June 1830. ** Company make the return which the private-trader would make, and thereby the private-traders are forced to take the Company's bills, which is a disadvantage to them.*
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5283. Is that injury done to the private-trader the whole extent of injury inflicted on the trade in general by the monopoly of the China trade possessed by the Company?—It is a matter of opinion how far the trade would be extended if the Company's monopoly were to cease. It is my belief that it would be greatly extended; if not, I do not see that any other injury can arise than that of impeding the returns.

5284. The effect of the law being now, that if a merchant trading from England to China desires to make returns, he can only make them through the Company, in your opinion, would the general trade of the East be extended if the merchants trading from India to China were enabled to make those returns themselves?—I have no doubt it would; that the hope of gain from tea would rather form an additional inducement to the export of British manufactures, and one acting on the other would increase the trade very much; that it might not always be profitable, but in the end I think it would be.

5285. At present the Company's ship goes to China without a freight and returns with one, and the country trader goes to China with a freight and returns without one?—Precisely so.

5286. Are the regulations of the port of Canton with respect to the entrance of foreign vessels very strict?—I believe they are very strict; there is however no difficulty, unless there is loss of life, in which case they are very particular to exact a return.

5287. Are those regulations very rigidly enforced?—I doubt whether they are; persons trading to Canton, I believe, know very little of them; there are edicts published, as we all know, against every thing almost which is improper; against opium, for instance.

5288. Have they not, in point of fact, been considerably relaxed with respect to the Americans?—I am not prepared to say; I can only say that the Americans never had much difficulty in business there; they have always gone on very regularly, and without any embarrassment, except on one or two occasions; in one case, of a man murdering a woman, a temporary difficulty was experienced.

5289. Do you think that if free-traders from this country were suffered to go there, they would be exposed to more inconvenience from those regulations?—I think not; the consul would, particularly by notifying the regulations of the port on the arrival of the ship, and pointing out the punishment for a departure from those regulations, I think, prevent any difficulty.

5290. Do you know whether the Americans are in the habit of purchasing at Canton a considerable quantity of any species of tea which is not purchased by the East-India Company?—I believe they purchase a much greater quantity

quantity of the higher qualities of green tea in proportion to the whole shipment on American account than the Company; but I believe you may buy all descriptions of tea in London, though I suppose the quantity is small at some of the higher prices.

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5291. Is there any considerable quantity of tea of inferior description purchased by the Americans, and that is rather rejected than otherwise by the Company in the market of Canton?—I believe that, generally speaking, the tea shipped by the Americans is not so good as that shipped by the Company; there is a portion of as good tea shipped by the Americans; but with tea, as with every thing else coming to this country, the duty forms so large a proportion of the price, that any thing very inferior would not be likely to be brought here for consumption.

5292. Do you conceive that the Americans, having an opportunity of selecting the superior species of teas, choose the inferior, as finding them more marketable?—More profitable to them; that is the reason, I presume.

5293. When they were in the habit of supplying foreign Europe with tea, do you know what quality they chiefly introduced into Europe?—I can state what the shipments were for one year, presuming that the assortments suited to the market—the year 1828-29.

5294. The question referred to the period when they were in the habit of supplying foreign Europe more largely than they do at present?—I presume that the assortment has been very nearly the same, but I cannot speak precisely to that; it has not occurred to me to examine whether there is more fine tea now consumed in Europe than formerly. I can give it only for the year 1828-29. An assortment of 35,000 chests was divided into 1,500 bohea, 10,600 congou, 4,642 campoi, 1,074 souchong, 2,040 pekoe, 3,276 hyson, 2,340 hyson skin, 3,449 twankay, 2,388 young hyson, 577 Imperial, and 434 gunpowder.

5295. Do you not think that if it is a fact that the manufacture of spurious tea is carried on in this country to advantage, that affords strong ground for presuming that the market is insufficiently supplied with genuine tea of the inferior quality?—I should draw the inference from it, that the sale price to the consumer was too high.

5296. Do you happen to know what articles of woollen manufacture imported by the Americans have been most in demand in China?—The Company's woollens or the Company's cloths. A species of ladies' cloth—broad-cloth—they have imported the same; and there are a species of coarse woollen called long ell; and the camlets, which is a worsted stuff.

5297. Have you reason to believe there is an increasing demand for those articles?—Perhaps less for those articles; I believe it is increasing, but very slowly.

5298. As far as you had an opportunity of observing, do you think that the Chinese population attend most to the cheapness or to the durability of the article that they purchase?—I think they would attend to the durability; they are very exact judges of quality.

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J. Bates, Esq.

5299. Is it a fact that the articles of cotton which are manufactured by them are found to be more durable than European manufactured articles?—Hitherto, I believe, the nankeens of China have been thought to be superior; but I believe that the difficulty in the competition is now overcome; that nankeens may be by and by carried to China, and that they would fetch the prices we are in the habit of paying for them at Canton now; the French make nankeens now superior to the Chinese.

5300. Have you reason to think that much of the loss that has been experienced by the Americans in the Chinese trade has been owing to persons of insufficient capital engaging in it, and experiencing in the first instance great gains?—That is the view I take of it; that the persons who have failed in business (and there have been several failures) engaged without sufficient means; they took up money, some of them on respondentia, and thereby after a successful year they extended their operations; and when a reverse came, with the state of things that took place here, which affected things in every other country, they were overtaken, and were of course ruined.

5301. Is there a considerable export now of manufactures from hence to Java, as well as to Manilla?—There is even now, although the regulations there are much in favour of Dutch manufactures.

5302. Do you happen to know of any American vessel that has lately gone out to China with a very considerable cargo of manufactured goods?—Our house despatched one with a very large cargo within a month.

5303. Can you furnish the Committee with an account of that shipment?—There was the usual quantity of woollens—no cotton goods—amounting to about £55,000, and I think about £100,000 value in opium; probably five or six thousand in metals and other articles.

5304. Can you state the average rate of duty paid in America on teas?—The duty in the United States on tea from China is, on bohea, twelve cents; on souchong and other black, twenty-five cents; hyson and young hyson, forty cents; hyson skin and other green, twenty-eight cents; imperial and gunpowder, fifty cents.

5305. Does that amount to fifty per cent. on the average?—It amounts to more than fifty per cent.; it amounts to seventy-five per cent. on a middling quality of tea.

5306. Do not the Americans occasionally buy green teas at the highest price?—I believe they buy the highest quality of green tea generally.

5307. Are you aware that they give high prices which the Company would not think themselves justified in going to?—I believe they pay very high prices for green tea, the supply being probably short.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till to-morrow, One o'clock.

Die Veneris, 11^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. CHARLES EVERETT is called in, and examined as follows :

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

5308. WHAT is your profession?—I am an American merchant.

5309. Are you an American?—I am.

5310. Are you a commission merchant?—I am.

5311. A commission merchant only?—Yes.

5312. Have you, in that capacity, been engaged in the export to China of British manufactures on American account?—I was the first to ship on the account of Americans; and commenced the business in 1818, and continued it till the end of 1828.

5313. Have you now ceased to conduct that business?—Yes, I have.

5314. Were you engaged extensively in the export of British manufactures on American account?—To China I have shipped to a large amount.

5315. Have you with you any statement of the amount you have shipped at different times?—I have a statement, marked (A.), of the amount, the dates of the shipments, and the quantities by each vessel.

5316. Have the goodness to deliver in the same?

[The witness delivers in the same, and it is read, and is as follows:]

A STATEMENT

EVIDENCE ON EAST-INDIA AFFAIRS:

(A.)

A STATEMENT of the Amount and Date of the SHIPMENTS of BRITISH MANUFACTURED GOODS purchased by CHARLES EVERETT, for the CHINA TRADE on AMERICAN ACCOUNT; distinguishing the QUANTITIES and VALUE of the leading Articles of Cottons and Woollens; from 1818 to January 1829.

	Packages.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Ophelia: July 1818 ...	9	Canton: 58 pieces cloths	1,136	8	11			
Roxana: Sept. 1818 ..	4	Boston: 29 pieces cloths	672	18	3			
Augusta: July 1819 ...	68	Gibraltar and Canton: 1,344 pieces bombazetts....	3,662	5	6			
	1	20 — camlets	144	2	0			
	75	1,500 — long ells	4,607	14	0			
	33	200 — cloths	1,718	5	0			
			10,132	6	6			
Ophelia: Dec. 1819 ...	8	Canton: 80 pieces camlets	585	3	9			
	264	1,824 — cloths	15,170	4	8			
	10	200 — long ells	561	0	0			
			16,316	8	5			
Robt. Edwards: March 1820..	286	Canton: 2,867 pieces camlets	20,571	0	5			
	50	1,000 — bombazetts....	1,641	15	8			
	141	2,820 — long ells	7,865	8	2			
	150	786 — cloths	6,518	19	7			
	2	100 — cottons	191	5	2			
			36,738	9	0			
Canton Packet: May 1820 ...	100	Gibraltar and Canton: 1,000 pieces camlets	7,042	8	8			
	205	4,100 — bombazetts....	9,139	6	6			
	6	24 — cloths	208	15	10			
	9	180 — long ells	505	16	10			
	80	1,388 — cottons	2,492	5	0			
			19,388	2	10			
Houqua: July 1820 ...	180	Canton: 3,600 pieces bombazetts....	8,333	2	8			
	84	839 — camlets	5,486	14	10			
	54	1,080 — long ells	3,074	18	2			
	117	702 — cloths	5,330	18	4			
	20	2,000 — cottons	1,378	13	9			
			23,604	7	9			
Augusta: Nov. 1820 ...	20	Canton: 670 pieces cottons	1,766	6	5			
	554	4,540 — camlets	30,277	9	2			
	130	2,700 — bombazetts....	5,927	10	7			
	330	1,982 — cloths	17,169	13	6			
	74	1,480 — long ells	4,159	17	6			
	20	sundries	557	7	5			
			59,858	4	9			
						139,639	4	4

(continued.)

	Packages.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Cordelia:		Canton:									
Jan. 1821 ...	305	7,235 pieces cottons	8,156	7	6						
"	23	238 — camlets	868	7	5						
						9,024	15	1			
Nautilus:		Canton:									
April 1821...	118	1,125 pieces camlets	7,817	12	2						
"	130	2,600 — bombazetts ...	7,084	17	1						
"	177	3,540 — long ells	9,394	17	6						
"	552	3,570 — cloths	33,927	16	4						
"	227	6,800 — cottons	7,967	2	1						
"	32	sundries	1,741	6	2						
						67,933	11	4			
Ophelia:		Canton:									
Aug. 1821...	169	5,836 pieces cottons	8,836	19	7						
"	20	400 — bombazetts	1,090	18	5						
"	5	100 — long ells	321	14	2						
"	150	1,500 — camlets	9,959	17	6						
"	50	sundries	3,023	0	0						
						23,232	9	8			
Clarissa:		Batavia:							100,190	16	1
March 1822...	172	8,590 pieces cottons	8,154	17	1						
"	26	240 — cloths	1,770	9	6						
"	20	400 — long ells	957	1	6						
"	32	sundries	2,469	9	4						
						13,351	17	5			
Canton Packet:		Canton:									
Sept. 1822...	230	2,300 pieces camlets				15,116	5	0			
									28,468	2	5
Levant:											
March 1823...	50	500 pieces camlets	2,972	12	8						
"	240	4,800 — long ells	8,209	3	3						
"	48	2,730 — cottons	3,705	3	0						
"	76	586 — cloths	5,459	6	10						
"	40	sundries	2,089	19	2						
						24,436	4	11			
Augusta:		Canton:									
May 1823: ..	291	5,820 pieces long ells	12,413	7	0						
"	207	1,720 — cloths	9,352	12	6						
"	89	5,284 — cottons	7,485	16	8						
"		100 tons iron	1,181	14	4						
"	138	sundries	5,637	15	2						
						36,071	5	8			
London Packet:		Boston:									
July 1823 ...	50	1,000 pieces long ells	2,244	9	5						
"	10	100 — camlets	561	11	4						
"	28	sundries	1,612	4	10						
Via Liverpool:	40	400 — camlets	2,122	5	2						
						6,540	10	9			
									67,048	1	4
Duschburg:		Boston:									
Feb. 1824 ...	25	1,148 pieces camlets				1,329	17	10			

(continued.)

			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Houqua:	Packs.							
Aug. 1824:	392	23,250 pieces cottons.....	21,499	13	0			
	186	3,660 — long ells.....	7,440	9	0			
	40	400 — camlets.....	2,430	11	8			
	391	2,640 — cloths.....	20,521	0	11			
	41	sundries.....	1,212	10	6			
						53,104	5	1
Nautilus:		Canton:						
Dec. 1814...	150	1,500 pieces camlets.....	8,726	3	0			
	404	2,840 — cloths.....	23,149	2	1			
	110	2,200 — long ells.....	4,224	4	4			
	559	28,662 — cottons.....	28,085	18	8			
	177	sundries.....	7,061	12	9			
						71,247	0	10
London Packet:		Boston:						
Feb. 1825...	10	900 pieces cottons.....				443	0	0
Via Liverpool:		Boston:						
April 1825...	81	6,583 pieces cottons.....				5,918	2	2
Ocean:		Boston:						
May 1825...	25	500 pieces long ells.....				1,047	11	0
Houqua:		Manilla:						
Feb. 1826...	379	28,087 pieces cottons.....	22,525	19	2			
	20	220 — cloths.....	2,059	17	2			
	5	100 — long ells.....	206	0	0			
	5	50 — camlets.....	350	0	0			
	2	50 — bombazetts...	145	9	2			
	17	sundries.....	1,826	17	10			
						27,114	3	4
Nautilus:		Canton:						
July 1826...	206	2,060 pieces camlets.....	13,105	17	0			
	363	2,208 — cloths.....	29,020	2	6			
	448	20,890 — cottons.....	23,192	1	4			
	90	1,800 — bombazetts...	5,120	0	6			
	75	sundries.....	6,927	4	2			
						77,365	11	6
Milo:		Canton:						
July 1826...	483	3,020 pieces cloths.....	20,699	2	2			
	100	2,000 — long ells.....	3,941	10	6			
	40	4,000 — cottons.....	290	4	9			
						25,930	17	5
Danube:		Canton:						
Aug. 1826...	558	3,588 pieces cloths.....	23,881	8	6			
	20	200 — camlets.....	11,200	0	0			
	289	12,528 — cottons.....	9,543	18	1			
	25	sundries.....	3,209	14	3			
						37,835	0	10
Milo:		Canton:						
Aug. 1827...	204	11,258 pieces cottons.....	11,990	8	1			
	50	500 — camlets.....	4,333	12	2			
	84	508 — cloths.....	3,219	16	11			
	13	sundries.....	1,441	18	4			
						20,985	15	6

About £80,000 value of the cargoes of the Nautilus and Houqua were purchased in 1825, and the shipments delayed until 1826.

(continued.)

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

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	Packages.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Houqua :		Canton :						
Sept. 1827. . .	399	32,690 pieces cotton	17,629	8	1			
"	70	700 — camlets	3,802	19	10			
"	16	sundries	3,278	12	8	24,711	0	7
								45,696 16 1
Dorchester :		Boston :						
Feb. 1828. . .	7	Sundries	2,025	8	0			
Augusta :		Canton :						
April 1828. . .	140	7,000 pieces cottons	7,116	17	2			
"	120	1,200 — camlets	4,376	2	6			
"	24	sundries	2,697	19	2	16,190	18	10
Nautilus :		Canton :						
July 1828 . . .	150	1,500 pieces camlets	7,808	2	6			
"	198	1,300 — cloths	10,835	4	0			
"	45	900 — bombazetts	1,838	17	6			
"	100	2,000 — long ells	3,347	6	6			
"	142	10,095 — cottons	6,414	2	11			
"	92	sundries	3,021	11	6	33,265	4	11
								51,481 11 9
	14,392	Packages.						762,118 4 1

The table (A) shows the whole amount of manufactured goods that have been shipped from this port since the commencement of January 1829, excepting about £6,000 woollens and £2,000 cottons.

I commenced the business in 1818, and continued it until 1828. Since that time the shipments have been continued by my late employers, through essrs. Baring, Brothers, and Co.

The subjoined supplement to the above account continues the same, and was delivered in by Mr. JOSHUA BATES, partner in the House of Baring and Co., pursuant to the directions of this Committee.

MEMORANDUM

11 June 1880.

*Mr. C. Everett.*MEMORANDUM OF SHIPMENTS TO CHINA, on account of Americans, by the House of
Baring & Co.

1827...	Cottons	£ 35,580
	Woollens	16,930
	Irons	3,280
	Copper	3,120
	Quicksilver	4,500
	Cochineal	3,280
	Opium A.....	13,370
	Linens, Watches, Tin Plates, Spanish Dollars, &c.	2,380
		<u>£ 82,440</u>
1828...	Cottons	£ 24,740
	Woollens	31,070
	Opium	39,000
	Iron	3,440
		<u>£ 98,250</u>
1829...	Cottons	£ 34,600
	Woollens	97,720
	East-India Cotton, Raw.....	6,060
	Iron	5,920
	Lead	2,670
	Steel	500
		<u>£ 147,470</u>
1830...	Cottons	£ 6,029
	Woollens	41,641
	Iron and Steel	947
	Opium	83,699
	Trunks, Clocks, Carmine, &c.	1,214
		<u>£ 133,530</u>
		<u>36,301</u>
		<u>£ 169,831</u>

5317. Is the export of woollens from this country to China on American account a new branch of trade?—It has been carried on by myself since 1818. Previous to that time the goods could not be sent, on account of the prices being too high; there were some orders received, but which were not executed.

5318. Previous

5318. Previous to that period, what were the chief exports of the Americans to Canton?—I cannot say exactly; but it was in specie, iron, lead, &c.

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

5319. Were there any manufactured goods exported?—None by the Americans.

5320. Do you mean none from this country?—None from this country; and I do not know of any from America. I was not much acquainted with the trade till 1818, and my knowledge of it is confined principally to manufactured goods.

5321. You are not aware of any exports from America to Canton previously to the year 1818, with the exception of dollars?—No.

5322. By that account you have given in, does it appear that the export of woollens and cottons from this country has increased during the period to which that account refers?—It has in quantity; the fall in goods has been so great that the amounts do not appear so much increased as the quantities have been. I have a statement, marked (C), which will show the value of the leading articles at different periods, compared with the value of same qualities in 1820. One hundred pounds would purchase double the quantity of woollens that it would in 1820.

5323. Have the goodness to deliver that in.—There was a considerable decline previously to 1820, which I did not notice, as I wished to make a calculation from a date when goods were about one hundred per cent. above present prices.

[The witness delivers in the same, which is read and is as follows:]

(C.)

A STATEMENT shewing the Value of *Long Cloths*, *Camlets*, and *Broad Cloths*, compared with the Prices of the same Qualities at different Periods, from 1820 to 1830.

Long Cloths.

In	were	2½	to	5	per cent. less than 1820.
1821.....	—	5	—	7½	—
1822.....	—	10	—	15	—
1823.....	—	20	—	25	—
1824.....	—	12½	—	15	—
1825.....	—	30	—	35	—
1826.....	—	35	—	40	—
1827.....	—	40	—	45	—
1828.....	—	45	—	50	—
1829.....	—	47½	—	50	—
1830.....	—	(4 s)			

Camlets

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

Camlets.

In 1821.....	were.....	5	per cent. less than 1820.
1822.....	—	10 to 0	—
1823.....	—	12½ — 15	—
1824.....	—	15 — 20	—
1825.....	—	10 — 12½	—
1826.....	—	17½ — 20	—
1827.....	—	25 — 30	—
1828.....	—	30 — 33	—
1829.....	—	37½ — 40	—
1830.....	—	42 — 45	—

Broad-Cloths, suitable for the China Trade.

In 1821.....	were	5	to 7½	less than in 1820.
1822.....	—	7½ — 10	—	—
1823.....	—	— 10	—	—
1824.....	—	12 — 15	—	—
1825.....	—	5 — 10	—	—
1826.....	—	35 — 40	—	—
1827.....	—	40 — 42½	—	—
1828.....	—	42 — 45½	—	—
1829.....	—	45 — 47½	—	—
1830.....	—	47½ — 50	—	—

Long Ells at 55 per cent. lower than in 1820.

It appears from this Table that double the quantity of manufactured goods can now be purchased for the same sum paid in 1820; therefore, to form a correct estimate of the increase of the exports to China or elsewhere, it will be necessary to compare with the quantities, and not the value of the shipments.

5324. Is the paper you have delivered in formed on your own exports to China?—The calculations are as accurate as I could make them from actual purchases and from the invoices.

5325. Are you able to deliver in a statement of what those exports have fetched in China in those several years?—No, I am not.

5326. Are you aware whether there has been a proportionable diminution of the price of those articles in China?—I do not know what the goods have actually brought in China.

5327. Have you any knowledge generally of the profit which has been made upon those exports?—I have no knowledge of the prices they have brought, nor the profits on them; only I presume the shipments have been profitable, as the export has been continued up to the present time. There is one large shipment gone within six weeks.

5328. Your accounts refer to your own exports?—They do.

5329. Are you aware whether general exports of British manufactures to China,

China, on American account, have increased in the same proportion?—The documents from Messrs. W. and J. Brown and Co.'s house, and that of Messrs. Baring and Co., added to mine, will shew nearly the whole amount; so that the Committee can form their own conclusions from those accounts.

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

5330. You think the exports are confined to those three houses?—I think they are.

5331. Do you think that any proportion of those exports from this country has been sent on British account?—Not any by American vessels.

5332. Are you aware whether any such exports have taken place?—None that I know of, except by Company's vessels; and those were small shipments by the pursers and officers.

5333. There have been none by individuals, so far as you are aware?—None.

5334. Could not a shipment for China have been effected by a British merchant in an American ship?—Yes.

5335. You have no reason to suppose that has been done?—I do not know of any shipments by vessels direct to Canton. There is one shipment now preparing, which I suppose to be on British account.

5336. Is that to a large amount?—To a considerable amount.

5337. Have not the Americans possessed, for several years, the same facilities for exporting manufactures to China which, if the trade was opened, would be possessed by British merchants?—I think they have.

5338. Have they more?—They are perhaps better acquainted with the China trade than British merchants.

5339. Can they export, in your opinion, British manufactures to China at a smaller expense than they could be exported by British merchants?—That depends on the management of the ships. American vessels are sailed at less expense, and there is less parade.

5340. Is that the general character of their shipping?—Yes; and the captains are actually sailing masters, and always on the alert, and urging despatch.

5341. Do you think that, in the event of opening the trade, the Americans would still retain that export of British manufactures to China which they now possess; that they would be able to undersell, in that trade, the British merchant?—They would have the same advantage that they have at present, knowing the trade better than the British merchant.

5342. Do you think they would undersell the British merchant, and keep that trade to themselves?—It depends on the management of the British merchants; no doubt they are competent to carry it on.

5343. You stated that the American ships sail at less cost than the British?—The British merchant might employ an American vessel.

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

5344. But unless he did that, he could not, in your opinion, convey his goods to China at so small a cost as the American?—No, I think not.

5345. Then, unless he adopted that course of conveying his goods to China, you think that the Americans, after the opening of the China trade, would keep that trade to themselves?—Unless the British system is altered, and they could undersell the Americans. The American vessels are built for less money, and they take a less number of men; the captains have no servants; there is not the style that we see on board an English ship.

5346. The Americans having had for several years the power of exporting British manufactures to China, do you not imagine that they have carried their exports to as great an extent already as, under the circumstances which have taken place, they could have been carried to had it been in the hands of British merchants?—By no means; if it had been an open and free trade it might have been increased in (my opinion) very much. Indeed, the capital of the houses that have been engaged in it is not sufficient to carry all the goods which might have been taken.

5347. Had it been a very profitable trade, do you not think more capital might have flowed into it?—It is possible it might; but there are but few that have been acquainted with it; there have been two or three houses concerned in the shipments.

5348. You are probably aware that the nature of the trade at Canton has been perfectly well known, and made public for many years, and that peculiar facilities exist in the port of Canton for carrying on trade?—Yes, that is certainly the case; but the Americans have not that capital to put into long voyages that will be found in England.

5349. Had the trade been very profitable, do you not imagine the Americans would have found capital to have carried it on to a greater extent—that they would have borrowed capital?—They may not have been aware that it has been profitable.

5350. If that had been the case, however, do you not think it would have become known?—I cannot say.

5351. Do you think the making a great profit in any one line of trade can long remain a secret from merchants in general?—Yes; that the assortment of the goods, and where they are to be procured, is not generally known; and there is no reason why every merchant should know it. For instance, no one would know what assortments of goods I ship without looking at my books.

5352. In your opinion, the China trade is capable of much greater extension than has been hitherto given to it, provided greater capital were employed?—Yes.

5353. What articles of export do you apprehend are the most profitable?—Cottons and woollens.

5354. What

5354. What has been the amount of profit on cottons and woollens, you do not know?—No.

11 June 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

5355. But you are disposed to think that the greatest profit could be made upon them?—Yes, of the English manufactures.

5356. Are you aware that the East-India Company state that they have lost on the exports of their cottons and woollens?—I have heard so.

5357. Can you understand how that has taken place?—It is owing perhaps to their giving more for them, and to the expense which attends their movements.

5358. In what part of their trade is that extraordinary expense of which you speak?—I believe it extends through the whole system. Large bodies cannot act with that prudence and economy which individuals can.

5359. It continues from the purchase of the goods to the ultimate sale of the returns?—Yes. I think their shipments have been about £800,000; and I have shipped myself to China and America, five or six years in continuation, £200,000, with the assistance of a few clerks. They maintain an immense establishment for the purpose.

5360. Has the export of British manufactures to China been doubled in quantity since the year 1821?—The statements I have handed in, when compared with the reports from those three houses to which I have referred, will show your Lordships that exactly.

5361. Have you an account shewing the quantities of each article, and the amount of shipments?—I have.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows :]

11 June 1880.

Mr. C. Everett.

(B.)

DATE.	CLOTHS:		CAMLETS:		LONG ELLS:		COTTONS:		SUNDRIES:		TOTAL.
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Value.		
1818....	87	£. s. d. 1,809 7 2	....	£. s. d. ....	....	£. s. d. ....	....	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d. 1,809 7 2
1819....	2,024	16,888 9 8	100	729 5 9	1,700	5,168 14 0	....	3,662 5 6	26,448 14 11	
1820....	3,494	29,228 7 3	9,246	63,977 13 1	5,560	15,605 10 10	4,158	5,828 10 4	25,599 2 10	139,639 4 4	
1821....	3,570	33,927 16 4	2,863	18,645 17 1	3,640	9,716 11 8	19,871	24,960 9 4	12,940 1 8	100,190 16 1	
1822....	240	1,770 9 6	2,300	15,116 5 0	400	937 1 6	8,590	8,154 17 1	2,469 9 4	28,468 2 5	
1823 ...	2,356	14,811 19 4	1,000	5,656 9 2	11,620	22,866 19 8	8,014	13,190 19 8	10,521 13 6	67,046 0 4	
1824....	5,480	43,670 3 0	3,046	12,486 12 6	5,860	11,664 13 4	51,912	49,585 11 8	8,274 3 3	125,631 3 9	
1825....	....	....	....	....	500	1,047 11 0	7,483	6,361 2 2	....	7,408 13 2
1826....	9,086	75,660 10 4	2,310	14,655 17 0	2,100	4,147 10 6	65,500	56,552 3 4	17,329 11 11	108,245 13 1	
1827....	508	3,219 16 11	1,200	8,196 12 0	....	....	43,943	28,619 16 2	4,720 11 0	45,636 16 1
1828....	1,300	10,835 4 0	2,700	14,184 5 0	2,000	3,947 6 6	17,095	13,531 0 1	9,583 16 2	51,461 11 9	
	28,095	231,822 3 6	24,767	152,968 16 7	33,390	74,521 19 0	226,571	207,784 9 10	35,000 15 2	762,118 3 1	

The above is a Statement of the Quantity and Value of each Description of Manufactured Goods purchased by Charles Everett for the China Trade, from 1818 to 1828.

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5362. By that statement it appears that in the year 1820 the number of pieces of cloth shipped was 3,494; in the year 1821, 3,570. It appears by another statement of yours, that since those years the price of cloths has been diminished nearly fifty per cent; but in the year 1827 it appears that only 508 pieces of cloth were exported, and in the year 1828 only 1,800; can you explain from what circumstance that arose?—They may have been in part of finer cloth by the early vend.

5363. Does that appear on reference to the comparative prices?—There is certainly a great irregularity in the quantity shipped. Of those shipments in the year 1826 one-half of the goods were bought in 1825.

5364. Will you look to the article of camlets; that appears to have diminished in price from forty-two to forty-five per cent. since the year 1821; and the number of pieces of camlet exported in the year 1820 was 9,246; in the year 1821, 2,863; whereas in the last two years, notwithstanding the great diminution of price, the number in 1827 was only 1,200, and in 1828, 2,700; can you account for that?—It may have been that there were too many of them sent the year previous.

5365. In the year 1826 it appears that only 2,310 were sent, and that in the year 1825 none at all was sent?—The shipments in 1825 were delayed till 1826.

5366. The shipment of 1826, which is 2,310, must be divided then between the two years 1825 and 1826?—Yes, it should be so divided.

5367. On a comparison of the shipments of the two last years and the shipment in 1821-22, it would appear that the shipments had fallen off, notwithstanding the diminution of price?—That would appear by this document only; but if your Lordships refer to the shipments of 1829 and the present year, there has been a much greater quantity of camlets shipped than at any former period.

5368. Can you complete this account to the year 1829?—The house of Baring and Company have continued the shipments for the same parties, and their accounts, with Messrs. Browns' statement, will complete the account of American shipments.

5369. If you refer to the article of long ells, in the year 1819 seventeen hundred pieces were exported; in 1820, 5,560; in 1821, 3,640. The prices of long ells appear to be fifty-five per cent. lower than they were in 1820, notwithstanding that in 1826 there are only 2,100 pieces exported, in 1827 none at all, and in 1828, 2,000; in what way do you account for that, supposing the exports to have been profitable?—Perhaps there were none in the market when the orders arrived, and I took other goods. You will find from Baring and Company also, that a great quantity of ells were sent in 1829 and 1830.

5370. The export of cotton appears to have largely increased?—Yes. Many of your Lordships' questions may be answered by the fact of the orders

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orders having been executed at very short notice, and such articles bought as could be furnished within a certain time.

5371. It appears that, with the exception of cotton, the articles were smaller in amount than in the year 1820?—Mr. Baring's shipments being added to mine, will shew that the whole export of those articles has been increased.

5372. The export of British goods on American account from this country having, according to your account, increased very largely during the last three or four years, how do you account for the diminution in the sale value of merchandize imported by Americans into China in the course of these three or four years, 1824-5, 1825-6, and 1826-7?—That may be accounted for by the cargoes having been sent to Manilla or elsewhere after touching at Lintin.

5373. The account to which the question refers, which is No. 25 of the papers presented to Parliament in the year 1829, refers to the sale value of merchandize actually imported into China. By that it appears, that in the year 1824-5 the sale value was 2,439,545 dollars; in 1825-6, 20,050,831. dollars; and in 1826-7, 20,002,549; thus shewing a gradual decrease in the value of the merchandize imported into China by the Americans in those three years. If the exports of British manufactures has increased in those three years, in what articles do you apprehend that the export of the Americans has fallen off?—I cannot answer that question exactly.

5374. You have no knowledge of the trade of the Americans, except that part which has fallen into your own hands?—No, I have not.

5375. In what manner have you purchased your cottons and woollens for your American constituents?—I have bought them generally by samples, and by personal inspection of them.

5376. Not by contracts?—Sometimes by contract, but not by tender.

5377. You think that is an uneconomical mode of transacting business?—It is the worst way, in my opinion, that business can be transacted.

5378. Where a business is of very great extent, do you think it would be equally well conducted without tender?—Yes, certainly. I have shipped to America and China altogether, as before-mentioned, two hundred thousand pounds a year, which is one-quarter part of the East-India Company's purchases of goods.

5379. Going into the market as you do, do you apprehend that you obtain as good an article as the Company at as low a price?—Yes, certainly.

5380. When there is any inferiority in any part of the articles you receive, do you reject them?—We reject them, or buy them at a lower price.

5381. Should you say generally the articles you have exported are of as good quality as the articles exported by the Company?—The articles of
cloths

cloths and camlets are in my opinion better than those the Company have usually sent out; the cloths have been decidedly better.

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5382. Have you any means of knowing at what prices the Company have purchased?—No. I have seen some minutes of their contracts.

5383. When you have seen minutes of their contracts, have they in your opinion paid too high a price?—They have paid higher prices than I have done.

5384. Have you had an opportunity of comparing their article with yours?—They have been compared in the China market.

5385. Have they fetched a higher price?—My camlets and cloths have been preferred to the Company's. I have never had any complaint in the long ells; but I knew them to be inferior, as I selected them from rejected goods principally.

5386. If the Company, exporting better long ells than you have done, have lost upon that export, and you, having exported rejected goods, have made a profit, would it not appear that the Company have exported goods of too fine a description for the market?—No; the finer the goods the better, if the prices are in proportion.

5387. Is the general demand for the China market* for the finest description of goods?—The finest description of goods I have found answer best; that is, the finest spun articles and useful qualities. The long ell is a very firm stout article, and will wear better than any fabric I am acquainted with in woollens to be had for the same price.

5388. Have you exported various sorts of cotton goods to China?—I have sent in quantity only a few kinds.

5389. Have you sent on speculation any new species of goods?—I have sent samples repeatedly.

5390. Have they succeeded as you have understood?—Some have, and some have not.

5391. Have you been desired to export many of those articles you have sent on speculation?—Yes, several.

5392. To any extent?—There is one article to a great extent I have had manufactured in Leeds.

5393. What is the nature of that article?—Bombazetts. I sent one bale, and received back £120 clear profit; and there were orders returned for about 10,000 pieces, and many more would have been shipped if they could have been made all of a particular colour; such orders were not executed.

5394. Do you know what is the commission* charged on the sale of goods at Canton?—I believe five per cent. is the usual charge at Canton; but my employers had a partner residing there.

5395. What is the commission usually received by merchants in this country for purchases for American houses?—Two and a half per cent.

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5396. Do you act under instructions from the merchants of America, or from houses in this country?—I have acted under the order of houses here in purchasing for China, and by direct orders from America.

5397. Under the orders of what houses do you act?—The orders, in the first instance, were received through Williams and Company, and they now continue through Baring and Company.

5398. You have acted rather as broker for the purchase of the articles?—The orders have in some instances been direct to me, but I have always been acting under the direction of the houses here, who are the banking agents for the parties in America, and control the sales of the return cargoes on the Continent.

5399. You have yourself inspected the goods?—Yes, I have.

5400. Do you go yourself into the country for the purpose of selecting them?—Whenever it is necessary.

5401. Has any improvement taken place in the manufacture of woollens and cottons of England within the last ten years?—Yes, there has been great improvements in cloths.

5402. The article is better, as well as cheaper?—The goods are more even and better finished by the machinery. There has been a machine introduced for shearing, which was previously done by shears, but is now done by a revolving apparatus, or spiral shears.

5403. Have you at all calculated how much per cent. more the best goods now would have fetched in the year 1820 than the best goods manufactured at that time?—The calculations I have given refer always to the same quality of the same article. I have duplicate patterns of former purchases to compare with the present.

5404. In consequence of the great improvement in the quality of some of the articles, the best article will not have fallen in price quite as much as appears in this statement?—In the calculation in the statement (C.) I always refer to the same description of goods which were bought in 1820, and speak of the same quality of each article in the subsequent years. There have been improvements in the manufacture, and those improvements have assisted in reducing the prices.

5405. Is it possible now, not only to purchase the same article, an article identically the same as that you would have purchased in 1820 for half the price, but for half the price do you actually get a better article?—No; the same article.

5406. Do you apprehend that the improvement in the quality of the article has tended to increase the demand in China?—The article shipped has been about the same.

5407. Then the more improved articles have not been shipped?—Yes; better finished.

5408. They

5408. They are of the same quality, better finished?—Yes.

5409. For half the price now you can furnish the same article you furnished in the year 1820; but that article will be better finished than it was in the year 1820?—Yes.

5410. Do you mean that they are more durable?—The cottons are made more even by the steam loom; and cloths finer spun, and finished better, by the improvements in machinery.

5411. Can you state whether the Americans procure woollens and cotton goods any where else to export to Canton besides those they procure from England?—They procure them from the United States also.

5412. Have you a statement of the quantities they have exported from America of their own manufacture?—I have.

[The witness delivers in the same, and it is read, and is as follows.]

AN ACCOUNT of the VALUE of FOREIGN and DOMESTIC COTTONS, WOOLLENS, and METALS exported from the Ports of the United States of America in the Years ending the 30th September 1827 and 1828, extracted from a General Statement respecting the Import and Export of Merchandize, printed by Order of Congress, February 10th, 1829.

	1827.		1828.	
	Foreign.	American.	Foreign.	American.
Woollens	19,264	.....	7,210	—
Cottons	76,274	9,388	204,789	14,961
Cotton Twist .....	.....	.....	3,574	—
Iron in Pigs, Bars, and Sheets	3,398	4,250	14,885	—
Copper in Pigs and Sheets	4,114	.....	11,819	—
Tin Plates	3,570	.....	2,056	—
Lead	178,131	.....	69,051	—
Value in Dollars	224,751	13,638	313,884	14,961

5413. Have you any reason to suppose that they have procured woollen manufactures for the purpose of exporting to Canton from any other country in Europe besides England?—No.

5414. Has the quantity exported from the United States increased in the same proportion with the quantity exported from this country?—I believe there

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there have been very few goods sent from the United States recently. I have not heard of any.

5415. Are you upon the whole inclined to believe that the exports from the United States will become greater or less, as compared with those from this country?—It is more convenient to take the goods from hence, if they want any considerable quantity of British manufactured goods, rather than take them from the United States, though some small quantities may go from thence. The expence of sending goods to America and reshipping would be equal to ten per cent.

5416. If they could be carried by British ships, do you think all the goods now carried by American ships would be carried by British ships from hence to India?—A great proportion might be carried by British ships; but it is uncertain.

5417. In preference to American ships?—There are only one or two parties engaged in the trade now; and I believe those parties would give up the trade if it was open; it would be left to the English merchants, unless other Americans engaged in it.

5418. Would not the exporting merchant select the ship in which he could send his goods at the least freight?—Certainly.

5419. If the freight of the American ship was the lowest, would he not send it in an American ship?—Yes, I should think he would. It is generally known, and I believe understood, that an American ship can go at a less expence than an English.

5420. Can you state what is the difference of freight between an American and a British ship at the present moment; from hence to America, for instance?—Very few English ships go from hence to America with manufactured goods; the American ships are taken in preference.

5421. Can you state the comparison on any voyage?—The freight of the British ships is generally lower: but the American ships sailing so much faster, and better commanded, they do not like to ship valuable merchandize by an English vessel to any port in the United States.

5422. When you speak of English freight, do you allude to the amount of freight from London or from English ports generally; taking into consideration the difference between Liverpool and London?—I should take both Liverpool and London, as far as I know the trade. The American packets run regularly; that is another reason they command a better freight; so that no just comparison can be made between the freight of an English and American ship to America.

5423. Can an English ship, under the present American law, carry the same cargo that an American ship can carry from this country?—I believe an English ship can carry the produce and manufactures of England, but not of other countries. Every article I ship to America might be, except foreign merchandize.

5424. With

5424. With what description of vessels were you comparing the American, when you stated that they could sail so much cheaper?—As comparing them with the East-India Company's ships and private-traders.

5425. Are the private-traders sailed with the same parade and expense as the Company's ships?—I believe they are; but I am not fully acquainted with that.

5426. What attempts have been made, through you or the houses which employ you, to introduce any new article of export?—I have made repeated experiments, and have succeeded with some articles.

5427. In what kind of articles?—In woollens and cotton long-cloths, of which there are large quantities now shipped and sent out since the first experiment. They were copies of the long-cloths from Bengal.

5428. Have any of those articles succeeded to a considerable extent, so that a large export takes place?—Yes; the export of long-cloths is to a considerable extent. There was no export of long-cloths by the first vessels.

5429. You say that a large shipment has been made within these last six weeks; do you know of what it consisted?—I must beg to refer that question to Messrs. Baring and Company, who shipped the goods by the *Bashaw*.

5430. Do you not think that the size and the warlike appearance of the East-India Company's ships has had rather a tendency than otherwise to excite the jealousy and the vigilance of the Chinese?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with that part of the subject to answer that question, not having been in China.

5431. Do you not think that if an English free trade were admitted to China, the possession of India by this country would give them a great advantage over the Americans?—No, I conceive not. The Americans have established their character with the Chinese as traders, and it would be difficult to dispossess them of the trade.

5432. Would not the possession of India by this country afford the English trader very considerable advantages in carrying on trade with China?—I should suppose it would.

5433. Do you know whether it has been generally expected by the Americans, that when the existing charter of the East-India Company was at an end the trade with China would be opened?—There is a variety of opinions upon that subject; I do not know what the general opinion is.

5434. Do you know of any considerable American house that is preparing to relinquish that branch of its trade?—I believe the house of Perkins and Company will relinquish their business. Mr. Cushing is gone out for the express purpose of closing their concerns at Canton.

5435. Has not he made a very large fortune by it, first?—Yes, I believe he has.

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5436. How

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5436. How much do you suppose?—I suppose about £500,000.

5437. How long has he been in China?—Twenty-two years.

5438. Do you know whether the same house intend to relinquish any other part of their commercial business?—I believe they are giving up the business altogether.

5439. Have they all made as large fortunes as Mr. Cushing?—Being partners, I presume they have, in proportion to their share in the concern.

5440. How many partners were there in that house?—Three.

5441. You have stated that American ships are built at a cheaper rate than English ships; have you any knowledge of the relative prices of ship-building in both countries?—I have no particular knowledge. The principal materials for ship-building are much cheaper in America, and of the best kind; and great improvements are made in the models and rigging, by the constant attention of ship-masters to make the vessels complete and fast sailers. They are generally built under the inspection of captains well acquainted with the qualities required by actual experience.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 15^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

JOHN STEWART, Esquire, a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is examined as follows:

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5442. You have been frequently in China, have you not?—I have.

5443. In what situation have you been there?—I have been there in the situation of mate and commander of a ship, and agent for the transaction of business connected with the ship I commanded. I have also had other ships, with their cargoes, consigned to me in China, whilst I was there.

5444. Have you resided at Canton for a considerable period of time together?—Never more than six or seven months together.

5445. At the time you were agent, did you transact business on your own account?—To a very limited extent. As commander of a ship, and also when mate of a ship, I used to trade on my own account, in a similar way

way to that in which the commanders and mates of East-India Company's ships trade, though not to such an extent.

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5446. With whom did you carry on your trade at Canton?—With the Hong merchants, and with the outside merchants; to a very considerable extent with both.

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5447. With which description did you prefer dealing?—With the Hong merchants, generally speaking; but there are certain articles of merchandize which the Hong merchants will not supply; and I have dealt very extensively with the outside merchants, particularly in the purchase of gold and silver bullion, which the Hong merchants would not supply. The returns I had occasion to make from China to my constituents in India were sometimes made to a considerable extent in bullion, and that I used to purchase exclusively from the outside merchants.

5448. The exportation of bullion being contrary to law?—Being prohibited, as I understand, by the law of China, although openly sanctioned by the custom-house officers at Canton, on payment of a small fee.

5449. When you transacted business with the outside merchants, was it not necessary that some Hong merchant should lend his name?—If the purchase is made from an outside merchant, he makes an arrangement with the Hong merchant, and the goods are shipped off from the warehouse of the Hong merchant, so that it appears to be supplied by the Hong merchant; that however is an understanding entirely between the outside or shop merchant and the Hong merchant, with which the European purchaser has nothing to do. In purchasing gold and silver bullion from the outside merchant, it is generally received at the house of the purchaser in Canton, and sent on board ship entirely at his own risk.

5450. That was entirely a smuggling transaction?—Not entirely so, as the shipment is permitted by the Chinese custom-house officers, on payment of a fee.

5451. Whether you bought of the Hong or the outside merchant, did you buy by contract, or as you wanted the articles?—As I wanted the articles.

5452. You preferred that mode of carrying on business?—Yes.

5453. Did you think you obtained goods of equally good quality in that manner?—Yes. I of course saw a sample of the goods before I settled for the price, and then I gave an order for the quantity, which was prepared accordingly; I might of course superintend the packing of them, if I chose, or depute another to do so; sometimes I did so; at other times I trusted it to the Hong merchant.

5454. Trading with a small capital, you would consider it more advantageous to make your purchases in that manner; but if trading with a very large capital, should you think it advisable?—It would depend on circumstances. Whatever might be the amount of capital, I should consider it necessary to ascertain whether I could purchase goods on better terms from the

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the Hong merchants than from the outside merchants. In purchasing a small quantity of goods, say from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds worth, it would generally be better to deal with the outside merchants, for we could go to their shops and select at once the goods we wanted; but in purchasing a whole ship's cargo, or investing to any large amount, I should conceive it was more advantageous to deal with the Hong merchant.

5455. Purchasing a large quantity at a time from the Hong merchants, should you purchase it by contract, or should you venture to trust the supply of the market, if you were desirous of making a very large purchase?—I do not exactly understand the question; does it refer to a purchase of goods to be delivered at a distant period?

5456. As the East-India Company purchase their teas?—I have always made purchases at the time I have required the goods, and have never bespoken a cargo at a distant period. It would depend on the fluctuations of the market how a purchase by contract answered; it might be advantageous one year, and not so another.

5457. If you were called upon to make a purchase to the extent the East-India Company do, or even a smaller, should you not think it a safer way to make a previous contract for the delivery of the quantity required?—I think I should, if purchasing to such an extent, make a previous contract for the quantity of goods required.

5458. If the Company adhere to the system of making contracts rather than purchasing in the market, it is not to be considered that that is a proof that they conduct their trade carelessly, or with disregard to the expense, but as a circumstance connected with the extent of their demand?—Unquestionably; it is by no means a proof that they conduct their purchases carelessly, but the contrary.

5459. In your opinion, what would be the effect of opening the trade of Canton to English merchants generally?—Most beneficial, in my opinion, certainly.

5460. Have the goodness to explain the effect which that opening of the trade would have, first upon the commerce of this country, and then upon the commerce of India?—I should conceive that it would affect the commerce of this country beneficially, inasmuch as under the operation of a perfectly free trade to Canton I am of opinion that there would be a greater consumption in China of the staples and manufactures of this country, particularly of woollens and metals, but metals more, I think, than any thing else; and China, in its varied productions, would afford the means of making returns direct to this country, if it were desirable, in goods, without loss; whilst returns to a great extent might also be made in bullion, when desirable, there being generally abundance of gold and silver to be obtained at Canton. It would also be the means of employing an increased number of ships and seamen. The effect of such a trade would operate in India on the same principle, by increasing the export of the produce of that country to China.

In

In connection with that part of the question which relates to the trade from this country, perhaps the most profitable mode of carrying on trade with China, if it were perfectly free, would be circuitously, by India—sending a ship's cargo out to India, to be sold there, and the proceeds invested in the produce of India, to be carried on to China, and the returns brought home direct from China, and *vice versa*. Ships from India would proceed in the first instance to China, from thence to this country, and then return to India.

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5461. Do you apprehend that in that trade a profit will be made upon the outward or the homeward cargo?—I think more generally upon the outward cargo. I should say that if the proceeds of the outward cargo were returned to this country without loss, there would be, generally speaking, a fair mercantile profit upon the adventure; the difficulty is at present, and I believe has been for the last ten or twelve years, in getting funds home from China.

5462. Is there at present any difficulty in obtaining bills on England in China?—I believe a very considerable difficulty.

5463. Are not the Company willing to give those bills to some extent?—I believe of late years they have never drawn to any extent on London when they could help it; as when they have required funds at Canton, they have generally preferred giving bills on India to drawing on London.

5464. If the Company were disposed to give to a large extent bills on England at Canton, do you apprehend that under those circumstances the opening of the trade would still produce any considerable advantage to the English trader?—It would depend upon the rate of exchange at which they gave the bills; but still under any circumstances I think that the opening of the trade would be advantageous, as I think a more favourable remittance would, generally speaking, be obtained through the medium of goods than through the medium of bills of exchange.

5465. The merchants' gains would be the difference between the profit on the remittance of goods and the difference in remittance by bills?—Yes, if the bills were given at par.

5466. Have not the Americans had the facilities of sending from this country to China British manufactures?—I believe so.

5467. Do you apprehend that if the trade were open, an English merchant could send British manufactures at a cheaper rate to China than the American merchants can now?—I should suppose they could be sent by the British merchants much on the same terms; I fancy we sail our merchant vessels as cheap as the Americans do now.

5468. The American merchants having now the means of sending their British manufactures to China, and it being your opinion the British merchant, in the event of opening the trade, would not have the means of exporting those manufactures at a smaller cost, what reason have you for thinking that the opening the trade would increase the export of British manufactures to China?—I believe that in this country the ship-owner and mer-

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chant are frequently combined in the same person. If I owned a ship in the port of London, I apprehend that I could send my goods cheaper to China in my own ship than I could freight them in an American, and I should prefer doing so to trading under a foreign flag, even if that were perfectly unobjectionable; besides, circumstances might occur to interrupt the transit of goods by a foreign flag, such as a war, which would not prevent our sending the same under a British flag.

5469. Do you think, if a British merchant were owner of a ship, he could carry his goods to China at a smaller cost than the American?—Perhaps not at a smaller cost, but with greater facility,—and probably even at a smaller cost; but that would depend upon the rate of freight charged by the one and the other; and the rate of freight might be influenced by a variety of political circumstances; a war, or the prospect of war, might raise the rate of freight by the one, and lower it by the other.

5470. Must not a merchant who exports by his own ship make two profits; the one by his ship, and the other by his goods, and thus be in exactly the situation of a person who exports on the ship of another, and pays freight?—No. It is the custom of some merchants to combine the earnings of the ship and the profit on the goods, making them in fact one adventure, debiting to that adventure the cost and outfit of the ship, and the price of the goods; and on the return crediting it for the proceeds of the goods or returns, and for the value of the ship at her return. I believe that other merchants again do separate the two, and keep the earnings of the ship quite distinct from the profit or loss on the goods.

5471. Though that is a different mode of keeping the accounts, will it make any difference in the extent of the profit of the person who so engaged his capital?—None whatever; only, that by keeping the account in one way there might appear a profit on the goods, whilst there was a loss on the ship.

5472. Cannot British manufactures be sent to China by means of the country trade?—Yes, certainly.

5473. Are they to any extent?—To a very limited extent, I believe, at present.

5474. Can you account for that?—Only in this way; that the raw cotton produced in India affords a better chance of profit than British manufactures purchased in India with the advance upon them there.

5475. In point of fact, have not British manufactures been sold in India at a cheaper rate than they could have been procured in London?—Not to my knowledge; my experience would lead me to entertain a different opinion.

5476. Has it not frequently happened that there has been so great a glut of British manufactures in India as to reduce the price below the prime cost?—Not on the western side of India, with the trade of which I am still connected; at Bombay I recollect no instance of this being the case.

5477. If

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5477. If the export of British manufactures to China direct be profitable, are you of opinion that the additional voyage, in which an expense would be incurred by the vessel going to India on the way to China, would so increase the cost of those manufactures as to make the speculation unprofitable?—Certainly, it would have the effect of making the speculation less profitable, and in some instances might make it altogether unprofitable; but I apprehend that British manufactures would never be sent to China circuitously through India; they might be sent to India, and sold or exchanged for other commodities there, and the produce sent on to China; or if the Indian markets were glutted, the goods might certainly then be sent on to China.

5478. The state of the law now allows only Americans to export British manufactures to China direct; the law however has allowed British merchants to export them from India to China. The question is, whether the export of British manufactures from India to China would be an unprofitable transaction, the cost of those manufactures having been so much increased by touching in India on the way?—Generally speaking, I apprehend that would be an unprofitable transaction.

5479. Have British manufactures been deposited at Singapore, for the purpose of being taken up by country ships on their way to China, to any extent?—I am not aware whether that has been the case or not; I have had very little communication with Singapore myself. The ships from Bombay have generally had full cargoes from Bombay to China, and I apprehend have very seldom had any goods from Singapore.

5480. Might not British manufactures have been sent from hence direct to Singapore, and then been taken up by British ships and carried on to China?—I think they might, and that it might advantageously have been done.

5481. It is not within your knowledge that it has been done?—No.

5482. Are not you of opinion that would have been done if there had been a prospect of advantage?—Certainly.

5483. What are the circumstances then which induce you to think that, in the event of opening the trade, a much greater quantity of British manufactures would be exported to China?—I think the consumption of them in China would increase under such circumstances, the importation of them to China being at present very much restricted; whereas, if the trade were open, considerable shipments would be made under the British flag, and which would find their way into the interior of the country, under the operation of a free trade, conducted with all the commercial enterprize of British merchants. The wants of China, in metals particularly, are very extensive. China does not produce a sufficient quantity of iron or copper for its own consumption; and the exportation of all metals from Canton, with the exception, I think, of lead, is prohibited.

5484. Do you think that the Chinese would purchase to a much greater extent,

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extent, unless the manufactures of England were offered at a much lower price than they are at present?—I think the price they now bear is sufficiently low to justify the expectation that they would purchase to a considerable extent.

5485. Do you know that the demand of the Chinese for British manufactures has increased in proportion to the diminution, amounting to about fifty per cent., which has taken place in the price of British woollens and cottons in the course of the last ten years?—I have no information enabling me to answer that question.

5486. Would not the natural course of things be, that on so great a diminution of price a larger portion of Chinese capital would be devoted to the purchase of British manufactures than had been before?—I am of opinion that that would be the effect under the operation of a perfectly free trade.

5487. Is not that true as regards the Americans?—I believe it is perfectly so.

5488. Then why should it not have been so under the operation of that perfectly free trade carried on by the Americans?—Possibly it may have been so; I cannot say.

5489. If it has not been so, should you not infer that there has not been a demand in China for a greater quantity of British woollens and cottons?—That would be a natural inference, if the experiment has been fully and fairly tried by the Americans; if they have taken out such goods to the full extent required by China.

5490. You are probably aware, from the returns, that the American trade has amounted in some years to from eight to ten millions of dollars, and that out of that amount not more than two or three millions of dollars in any one year have consisted of goods; do you not think that, having so large a capital as that disposable for trade with China, they would have invested a much larger proportion in British manufactures, if the exportation of those manufactures had proved profitable?—I have no doubt they would invest it in the purchase of any goods that would be likely to yield them the most profitable return.

5491. May it not be inferred, from their not having done that to any considerable extent, but that, on the contrary, their exports of British manufactures to China have diminished of late years, that they have not found it profitable to carry on a trade with that country by an export of manufactures?—Certainly; if their trade in manufactures has diminished, no doubt the inference is, that the profit has become less, or that the facilities have not been so great as they were.

5492. Is there not every facility of introducing into China all metals by means of the country trade?—Yes, every facility.

5493. Will you have the goodness to refer to the article of tin in the account Number 29, of the Papers presented to Parliament last session, and state

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state whether it appears to you from that return that the export of tin to China has been a profitable and is an increasing transaction?—It appears by this, that the importation of tin by country ships into China has very considerably fallen off since the year 1817-18; but it does not follow from this that the importation may not have increased by other means, tin having been an article of export from this country, and it is also procured at different islands of the Eastern Archipelago, and carried from thence by the Americans and others to China. The Banca tin, in particular, is the very best.

5494. Is there a considerable supply of tin to be got at the Eastern islands?—Very considerable.

5495. Will you have the goodness to refer to page 8, under the article of tin, and state whether the export of tin by the East-India Company appears to have been on the increase between the years 1820-21 and 1828-29; does it not appear that there has been none exported since 1822-23?—It does.

5496. Will you state, from the return in page 44, what appears to have been the course of trade with China in particular?—It seems by this return to have fluctuated very greatly indeed; and it would be almost impossible to draw any conclusion as to the state of the trade in that article, if this return included the whole of the iron that had been imported.

5497. The importation into China in the two last years appears to be very much smaller than the importation of the two first years of that return?—Very much so; but the importation of the year 1827-28 appears to be more than double the importation of the preceding year 1826-27.

5498. But still not to have exceeded the importation of the year 1817-18?—No; it appears to have come up to just about the same amount.

5499. Will you refer to the article iron, at page 8, the iron exported by the East-India Company, and state the result of that return?—There seems to have been a small increase in the quantity.

5500. Would it not appear, from the returns which you have just referred to, that the export of iron and of tin through the East-India Company, and all the country trade to China, had not, in the course of the last ten years, been a transaction attended with such profit as to induce any great extension of it?—It does not appear, certainly, to have been extended by the East-India Company, nor by those engaged in the country trade to China; I cannot say for what reason; but it would follow, I suppose, as a matter of course, that they did not find it so profitable as trading in other articles.

5501. Will you have the goodness to specify the articles of China produce which in your opinion would be obtained from China in case of any great extension of the trade?—I scarcely know any country so productive as China, or which contains such a variety of articles that would be required for the consumption of this country and of Europe. Silk in a manufactured and unmanufactured state might be brought to a very considerable extent; drugs

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drugs are also produced in China; cotton manufactured into nankeen would also be an article of considerable export; and sugar, if it were permitted here. The sugar-cane in China is very extensively cultivated; and there is a great variety of qualities, the finest and the coarsest sugar in the world being, I believe, produced in China.

5502. Have the goodness to refer to page 42 in that account; a return of the silk goods exported from Canton by the Americans for European consumption, and state whether from that return it would appear that the exportation of silk goods for the consumption of Europe had been a transaction of profit during that period?—I should infer from this return that it was now becoming an article of very great profit, as I see that from 1824-25 to 1825-26 in one year it has increased about fourteen millions.

5503. Do you not perceive that in the following year there is no export at all?—There is none.

5504. Have the goodness to refer to the article of nankeens, and state whether in your opinion, from this return, that article of export is likely to have been profitable?—No; it appears to have fallen off very considerably.

5505. Will you refer to raw silk?—Raw silk, by this return, would not appear to be an article of much importance.

5506. Or sugar?—That appears to have fallen off also.

5507. With the exception of cassia, which is stated as a separate article in this account, all the other articles to which you have referred must appear under the head of sundries, if such have been imported into Europe; will you state whether the total amount of all other articles not specified, imported under the head of sundries, appears to have been such as to give the appearance of a profitable transaction?—By this return it has not been always so, certainly; the exports under the head of sundries appear to have fluctuated very much latterly, but that did amount altogether to a very considerable sum.

5508. Should you, by looking at this whole account, and especially for the three last years of the export of tea, as well as of other articles specified by the Americans to Europe, say that the whole return exhibited the appearance of an increasing and profitable trade?—It appears, by the return I now hold in my hand, that the exports of the manufactures of China produce for European consumption by the Americans during the last three years has been on the decline; but I do not conceive that this is a criterion by which we could judge correctly of the profits of a free trade to China under the British flag; there are articles of China produce brought to the continent of Europe under other flags as well as the Americans; certainly, as far as the American exports are included, they appear to have decreased by this return.

5509. You have before admitted that, as regards the Americans, the trade with China is a perfectly free trade?—I believe perfectly free.

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5510. Will you have the goodness to refer to No. 26. in page 41, the account of exports from Canton by the Americans intended for American consumption, and state from an inspection of that account whether in the last three years that trade appears to have been a lucrative and increasing trade?—The average value of the last three years will exceed the average value of the three preceding years.

5511. Is not the value of the last year in that account only one-half of the value of the preceding year?—Very little more than one-half.

5512. Is not the value of the trade in the last year of that account less by one million than the value of the trade in any other year stated in that account?—Yes, it appears to be so.

5513. What were the articles of produce or of manufacture which you yourself imported into China?—Mostly cotton was the principal article of produce which used to be imported to my consignment at Canton; on one occasion woollens and metals to a considerable extent, purchased from the Bombay government in the year 1805 or 1806.

5514. Were the woollens purchased from the Bombay government?—Yes; they were sent out by the East India Company, and purchased to a very large extent; and sent on to China by the ship I commanded.

5515. Was the sale of those woollens profitable?—I had no means of ascertaining whether they were or not; I do not know what the cost of them was, and cannot say whether it was profitable or not.

5516. Was the sale of metals profitable?—The metals sent to China were not to so great an extent as the woollens. The metals were mostly resold, I believe, at Bombay; some were sent on to China, but whether they yielded a profit or not I cannot take upon myself to say; it was during the previous charter of the East-India Company, and we required a special license to take them on, the exportation of woollens from India to China being at that time prohibited; and we were permitted to take them on only in consequence of their having been purchased from the Company.

5517. Have the goodness to state in what way a merchant calculates the profit on his adventure to China?—He calculates his profit on the whole transaction. I can best answer the question by stating the mode of keeping an account of a commercial adventure from Bombay to China. The prime cost and charges of the goods purchased are debited to the account, together with the freight, insurance, and all charges on to the port of Canton.

5518. So far the account being kept in rupees?—Yes; so far the account being kept in rupees at Bombay. Then the returns are invested in various ways; perhaps some invested in goods for Bombay, others in bullion or in bills; perhaps sent to Bengal or to England, according to circumstances; but the whole is realized at Bombay.

5519. The profit upon the whole transaction is not ascertained till the proceeds

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proceeds of all the returns from China are actually realized in Bombay?—
No.

5520. Then the merchant, in keeping his account of a commercial transaction commencing in India and terminating in India, makes it not one transaction; he does not divide the profit into profit on the export and profit on the import cargo?—As far as my own experience goes, it has been the practice to make it one transaction.

5521. Therefore the profit upon the export cargo, whatever it may be, does not appear stated as such in the books?—No.

5522. Whether the profit be on the export or the import cargo, therefore, is a matter of opinion, but is not to be ascertained by the books of the merchants who enter into those speculations?—Certainly; commercial accounts such as I have mentioned will shew at any time whether the profit has been on the export or the import, because that account shews on one side what the goods cost, and on the other what they sold for at Canton; the merchant may, by analysing the account, with very little trouble ascertain whether the profit or loss has been on the one or the other, or on the two combined.

5523. In what manner do you convert into rupees the sum you receive in China for the export cargo?—We do not convert it into rupees until it is realized in rupees at Bombay; it depends on the rate of exchange at which it can be done.

5524. When you sell your goods in China for tales, in what manner do you convert those tales into rupees, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there has been a profit or loss in the transaction?—We would convert them into rupees at the current exchange existing between Bombay and China at the time.

5525. Would you state the profit upon a transaction of commerce between Europe and China to arise from the export trade?—If I were entering into a commercial transaction myself, I should keep the account exactly in the way I have stated; whether it were a direct voyage to China, or a circuitous voyage, I should debit the accounts with the investment and charges, and credit it with the proceeds as they came in; I should make no difference in the mode of keeping the account.

5526. When you say there is a profit on the export and none on the import, the import is nothing more than the mode of remittance?—Exactly so.

5527. In a free commerce between this country and Canton, will not the merchant of this country have a more easy and more profitable mode of remittance than the American merchant?—It is my opinion that he would have a more easy and more profitable mode of remittance.

5528. Have the goodness to state why you think it would be more profitable?—I apprehend that a British ship would, in the first place, import her

her cargo into this country at lower duties and under much more favourable circumstances than importations could be made under the American flag; and I am also of opinion that we can navigate our ships fully as cheap as the Americans. I cannot entertain any doubt that returns made from any foreign state to Great Britain could be made more advantageously under the British than under any foreign flag.

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5529. Can you state the proportionate loss on the freight of a circuitous voyage to Canton through India, and a direct voyage, if permitted, from England to Canton?—At present it would be very little indeed; the rate of freight outward-bound to China by India being so very low, it is almost nominal; it has been as low within the last two or three years as fifteen to twenty shillings per ton; it is now a little higher; but the ships of late years have been going out to India in ballast—almost without cargo.

5530. What would be the loss in point of time?—From two to three months, I apprehend, supposing there were no detention in India beyond that requisite to unload and load the cargo.

5531. Could the cargo be exported from India without having been unloaded in the port to which it was sent?—I apprehend there would be no objection to their carrying on their cargo without being landed; but that would rest entirely with the East-India Company, as a country ship cannot go to Canton now without a license from the Company's government in India.

5532. Do you think an English merchant, in the event of a free trade, would have an advantage over an American merchant, in making a remittance of goods to Continental Europe?—Not that I am aware of; unless he could sail his ship cheaper, I apprehend they would be very much on a par.

5533. If he could sail his ship cheaper, he would make a greater profit on the outward as well as the homeward cargo?—No doubt.

5534. In what description of vessels is the country trade of India carried on as to build and size?—They are very fine vessels, as fine merchantmen as any in the world, and I think the size now varies from five to seven hundred tons; there are a few in the trade as large as a thousand tons; there were formerly twelve hundred ton ships in the trade.

5535. By whom are they navigated?—Entirely by Asiatic seamen, but commanded and officered by Europeans.

5536. Of what country are the Asiatics?—Mostly natives of Ghuzzerat and the adjacent country, in the ships belonging to Bombay.

5537. What is the freight, in a country ship, from Bombay to Canton and back?—By the latest accounts, the freight from Bombay to China is about five pounds per ton; the freight back is not generally reckoned by the ton but the whole ship, when not loaded by her owner, is generally taken for a slump sum, and which, perhaps, might be estimated at from thirty shillings

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to two pounds a ton ; I should say that for about seven pounds per ton a ship could now be chartered to go from Canton to Bombay and back.

5538. What would be the freight of a British ship from Bombay to Canton ? —I apprehend the same.

5539. Is there no difference in the expense of building and navigating a country and a British ship ?—The expense of building at Bombay is fully as great, if not more, than the expense of building in this country ; and there is not much difference in the expense of navigating with Europeans, as fewer British seamen are required in proportion to the size of the ship than if she were manned with Asiatics.

5540. Do you think the trade with Canton would be carried on as conveniently, as well as more economically, in vessels of six hundred tons than it is in vessels of twelve hundred tons, by the Company ?—I think that, except as regards the port charges at Canton, a vessel of five or six hundred tons is better adapted for river navigation in any part of the world than a ship of twelve hundred tons ; but a ship of twelve hundred tons has a great advantage in trading to China, as the port charges at Canton are much lower in proportion to the tonnage of a large vessel than they are on a small vessel.

5541. What would be the difference between a vessel of twelve hundred tons and one of six hundred tons ?—Perhaps two pounds a ton ; but I cannot state that correctly.

5542. Do you mean upon the difference, or upon the whole ?—Two pounds a ton upon the difference of six hundred tons ; but I cannot state it accurately, without referring to documents, and going into the calculation.

5543. Will you have the goodness to refer to No. 18, and No. 41 ; would it not appear from the comparison of these accounts, that the total charge per ton is little more than a pound on a Company's ship at the port of Canton ?—Yes ; by this return it is scarcely a pound.

5544. The difference therefore must be very much less than you had at first imagined ?—The difference is considerable. There is a certain item of charge which they call a cumshaw, or present, amounting to 1,900 taels, levied on every ship, whatever her size may be, which is more than £600 of itself ; and a ship of 100 tons burthen has to pay that charge, whilst one of twelve hundred tons pays only the same. The mode in which they determine the amount of the other port charge is by measuring the ship from the centre of the fore-mast to the centre of the mizen-mast, and taking the extreme breadth on the upper deck ; and it is from this measurement that they compute the other part of the port charge, and it subjects a small ship to a much heavier charge in proportion than it does a large one, and it is consequently in that point of view much more advantageous to trade to China with a large ship, as far as the port charges are concerned, than with a small one. The port charges in any case are very heavy at Canton ; but I would beg to correct the answer I made when I estimated the difference of charge between

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between a large and a small ship at about two pounds per ton, as I think now that it cannot be so much.

5545. If the Account Number 41 states the whole of the charges imposed by the Chinese government on ships entering the port of Canton, the difference of charges on a small and a large ship must be less than you at first imagined?—This statement does not alter the opinion I gave as to the relative difference; in stating that there would be a difference of about two pounds per ton, that I apprehend would, generally speaking, be an over estimate, but the relative difference will still be very great; it will probably be one-half in some ships, one-third in others, and one-fourth in others, according to their relative tonnage.

5546. Do Company's ships remain much longer at Canton than the ships of private merchants?—Generally speaking, they do; but that depends upon the period of their arrival. They arrive at Canton at different periods of time, and they begin to load and despatch them when the new teas come down, which is generally in October or November; and they continue sailing up to February, two or three at a time, every fortnight.

5547. Do the Factory appear to take pains to despatch the ships as soon as they can?—Yes, certainly.

5548. Is the time of their arrival so calculated as not to entail any unnecessary demurrage?—Yes; I think that the arrival and despatch of the Company's ships at Canton was, so far as I had an opportunity of seeing, managed as well as it could be.

5549. Are teas, in your opinion, conveyed more safely in a ship of 1,200 than a ship of 600 tons?—No; I cannot conceive there would be any difference in the safety of their conveyance.

5550. They would not incur any damage by being shipped in a ship of 600 tons?—I do not apprehend they would incur more danger or risk in a ship of 600 tons than in a ship of 1200 tons.

5551. Will a ship of 600 tons have as large a quantity on board as a ship of 1200 tons in proportion to the tonnage?—Generally speaking, she would; but much depends upon the formation of the vessel. Some ships that measure 1200 tons will not carry so much tea by 100 tons as others of the same registered tonnage, the measurement being calculated according to the length, depth, and extreme breadth; and ships that do not carry the breadth low down, but are built sharp like a wedge, are not burthensome for cargo.

5552. When an engagement is made by a ship-owner for the freight, does that engagement rest on the registered tonnage, or the actual tonnage of the vessel?—Sometimes one, sometimes the other. I understand that the East-India Company in engaging ships pay a certain rate of freight for the registered tonnage, and a less rate for any surplus the ship can take beyond the registered tonnage. In my own experience, we have generally engaged

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tonnage for the quantity the ship can take on board; so as not to overload her, but to leave her seaworthy.

5553. Are you extensively acquainted with shipping?—Yes; I have been concerned in East-India shipping for many years, and am so still.

5554. Can you state whether much improvement has taken place in the ship-building of this country, as to enabling a British ship to compete with an American ship, or more easily carry a large cargo?—I have no means of answering that question.

5555. Has there been a great improvement in the mode of building the merchant ships of this country, with respect to their sailing?—I am not aware that there has been any material improvement for some years back.

5556. You do not build ships?—No; not in this country. My connexion with shipping is mostly with shipping built in India, and trading between India and China.

5557. Supposing a free trade were open, do you think that a new class of ships would be constructed in this country applicable to that trade?—Yes; I think it very likely that ships of from 600 or 700 tons would be built for that purpose.

5558. What charges in this country does the mode of registering tonnage affect?—I cannot answer that question, having no concern with the shipping of this country.

5559. Are the ships you are acquainted with in the East measured in the same way as in England?—Yes, exactly the same.

5560. Then does it not follow, taking the measurement from the length and breadth and depth of the midships, giving greater width fore and aft, that it must be more advantageous in point of measurement?—Yes; it would be a more burthensome ship, and stow more cargo; but then it would tend to impede her sailing.

5561. Are not the Chinese goods, imported into America by the Americans in return for the British manufactures they export, exclusively intended for the markets either of the United States or the continent of Europe?—I believe entirely; I am not aware of any attempt to export goods direct to England from China by American ships.

5562. Would not the effect of that be, that the exports of British manufactures by Americans would be limited rather by a chance of profitable sale of the return cargo than by a demand in China itself for the British goods?—Yes, no doubt of it.

5563. But if the American could import into this great market of England China produce, he would then be enabled to speculate more advantageously in the export of British manufactures?—Yes; if he were permitted to export them on the same terms as he could do under the British

5564. So

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5564. So that, although the American exports of British manufactures may not have been on the increase, it does not at all follow from that that there would be no increase of British manufactures exported to China for that market if the English market was open to a return cargo of Chinese produce?—Certainly, it does not follow that there would not be an increase of export under the British flag if the trade were perfectly unrestricted; and I apprehend the point could not be ascertained, as regards the Americans, unless they were permitted to import on the same terms.

5565. If the market for the produce and manufactures of China, as exported thence by the Americans, were generally extended, their exports to China might be extended for the purpose of meeting that extension of the market for Chinese produce and manufactures; but does it follow that the export of any particular article of manufacture or of produce from China by Americans would be extended, because their whole trade is extended?—I apprehend that would follow as a matter of course. I apprehend that, on general principles, if there was an increased demand for China produce all over the world, and that that China produce could be purchased in China by British manufactures, exported from this country under the American or any other flag, the increased demand would naturally lead to increased exports from this country.

5566. Would not an increased export take place clearly in that description of manufacture which could be exported with the greatest profit; and would the export of British manufactures be increased, unless they could be exported to greater profit than other articles of produce or manufacture sent to the Chinese market?—The export would naturally be greatest in that article which afforded the greatest profit; but I think the export trade would increase generally under the circumstances stated.

5567. While there is no reason, from the general extension of that trade, to argue that the export of any one particular article of manufacture would be increased, neither is there any reason to infer that the export of that article would be increased; the general amount of the exports would be increased, but you cannot say that any one particular article would be increased?—I should say that the export trade certainly would increase; and that the export of particular articles would depend entirely on the demand for them in China.

5568. If the general exports were to increase, and the export of any specified articles were to remain the same, the remainder of the export must consist of new articles, not previously imported?—Yes.

5569. If the general commerce increased, would not the presumption be in favour of every article of which it is composed?—Certainly.

5570. Have the goodness to refer to the Account, No. 25, page 40, and look at the years 1821-22 and 1824-25; does it not appear by this return that the sale value of the merchandize imported into China by the Americans

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cans in 1821-22 amounted to 3,074,741 dollars, and in the year 1824-5 to 2,437,545; that there had been a very considerable increase in the total value of exports to China by the Americans, comparing the last of those years with the first, and therefore a great extension of general trade; but that it had not been found advantageous to make that extension of the trade by an increased export of manufactures, but the contrary, for that there had been a diminution to the amount of more than 600,000 dollars on the export of manufactures, while there had been an increase of nearly 700,000 dollars in the total amount of the export trade?—I should say, if I understand the question rightly, that this return does not enable me to judge whether there has been an increased or a diminished export of manufactures. There appears to have been a diminished export in value of goods, but whether the quantity has increased or diminished does not appear from this return. I confess I do not very clearly understand this return in the way in which it is framed.

5571. Would it not however appear from the return, that, notwithstanding the considerable increase of the trade which took place in the latter of those years to which reference has been made, and in the value of the produce and manufactures of China exported in that year, the Chinese have devoted to the purchase of manufactures a much smaller sum in the latter year than they did in the former?—If the first column in the return refers merely to the value at which the goods have sold at Canton, certainly the Chinese have paid less for the imports by Americans for that year than they did in the year 1821-22.

5572. Though a larger proportion of American capital was devoted to the exporting from China Chinese productions and manufactures, was not a smaller portion of Chinese capital devoted to the purchase of that part of the American import into China which consisted of merchandize?—That appears by this return to have been the case.

5573. Do you consider that any table of actual value is to be taken as an accurate criterion of the amount of demand and supply of the commerce carried on?—No, certainly not; I think it is quite impossible to draw any correct conclusion as to the fluctuations in commerce from such an account as this, which only relates to value.

5574. Have the goodness to refer to No. 37, page 98, of the accounts now shewn to you, under the head of woollen manufactures; if it should appear that in the year 1814 the declared value of the pieces of woollen manufacture exported was £215,815, and that in the year 1828 the declared value of the same species of articles was £217,454, should you be accurate in inferring that there had been no greater exports in the latter year than in the former, than the difference between the £215,000 and the £217,000?—I should say that would not be a correct conclusion to come to.

5575. The fact being, that in the year 1814 the number of pieces exported, which were valued at £215,000, were 12,569, and the number of pieces which

which in 1828 were valued at £217,000 were 33,458?—That appears to be the fact. 15 June 1830.

5576. Does not that prove that the statement of declared value is not a measure of the amount of commercial intercourse?—It does establish that fact clearly. *J. Stewart, Esq.*

5577. Do you not estimate the demand for an article by the amount of capital applied to the purchase of it?—No; I should rather estimate the amount of capital required by the demand for the article.

5578. In the event of opening the trade with China to all British subjects, do you think it would be necessary to establish some public authority at Canton, which should have the power of controlling the conduct of all British merchants and subjects trading to that port?—Yes, I should think that essentially necessary to the preservation of the trade; I state that from my own knowledge of the peculiarities of the Chinese, and the necessity of controlling Europeans visiting Canton.

5579. In what manner would you give to that public officer, so established at Canton, an effectual control over the conduct of British subjects; merely by a change in the act of the Legislature, or would you give him some essential authority?—I conceive the authority now vested by the Act of Parliament in the East-India Company's Supercargoes is quite sufficient.

5580. Would you propose that the papers of the ship should be necessarily deposited with that officer immediately on its arrival?—No; it would not be necessary; they are usually carried now to the President of the Select Committee, for his inspection.

5581. What powers have the Supercargoes?—They have very extensive powers; they are empowered to remove from Canton or from any of the islands on the coast of China, any British subject, whenever they think it proper to do so; and they are entitled to call upon the commander of any British ship at Canton for physical force to enable them to carry their determination into effect. They can also interdict the whole British trade at any time if they think proper. In fact, every British ship going to Canton may be controlled by the Select Committee, and not only the ship and cargo, but the crew; they are obliged to comply with any orders the Select Committee may issue to them.

5582. Do you think it necessary this power should be continued, or other powers substituted for it?—I think it necessary a power of that nature should be retained.

5583. Do you know what powers the Dutch consuls possess?—I do not.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, One o'clock.

Die Jovis, 17^o Junii

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN SIMPSON is called in, and examined as follows :

17 June 1830.

Mr. J. Simpson.

5584. **WHAT** is your business?—That of an insurance broker in London.

5585. Have you been long engaged in that business?—Yes, upwards of thirty years.

5586. What is at present the insurance upon a ship of the best description to Canton and back?—The premium now is about six per cent. out and home.

5587. Is that the premium on the best of the Company's ships?—It is.

5588. Do not the Company usually insure themselves?—They never do.

5589. What is this—the insurance on goods of private persons on board?—Yes ; and some ships belonging to private individuals are insured at that rate.

5590. What ships belonging to private individuals do you refer to?—There are a great many belonging to private individuals that are taken up by the Company for a certain number of voyages out and home ; it is these I allude to.

5591. Is there a difference in the rate of insurance on those vessels, and on the goods carried in the East-India Company's vessels?—No, not any.

5592. There is no difference in the rate of insurance between a ship of 600 and one of 1200 tons?—No ; many would prefer the smaller.

5593. Do the Americans effect insurances on their ships in this country, when they undertake a voyage to Canton?—Very seldom.

5594. Do you know of any instance?—I remember one some years ago, and the premium was complained of, stating they could have done it at less expense in America.

5595. Was it insured at a higher or lower premium than an English one, and at the same time?—About the same rate.

5596. Has there been any great alteration in the rate of insurance since the peace?—Not by the Company's ships.

5597. None at all?—Not any ; it has always been the same on the Company's ships, to China particularly.

5598. Is

5598. Is it not supposed that the sea risk is smaller now than it was formerly?—No, I never heard of any such supposition.

17 June 1830.

5599. Not since the peace?—No; the sea risk is the same always. I am not aware that the seasons have changed.

Mr. J. Simpson.

5600. Are there other vessels better navigated and better found than there used to be, and which make their voyages in a much shorter time than they did?—No; I don't think there are. In the time of war, going with convoy, they were longer; but since the peace it has been usually the same.

5601. Are Liverpool ships insured in Liverpool as they are at London?—That trade is confined to Bombay, Calcutta, and other parts; not to China. The Liverpool insurances are generally done in London, and at a less rate than what the ships of the Company are done at now; same voyage.

5602. Is that the case with ships from any of the other outports?—Yes; it is generally; there is much greater competition in the doing of them than in the trade of the Company's ships. The premium upon private vessels to China and back would be £5 per cent. instead of £6. Were the trade open immediately, it would be less, from its being less risk, as they would not be subject to mischief in the Downs; and less from the competition that would take place, as the outport business is done in London through brokers, between whom there is always great competition. I have seen lately a ship done from here to Calcutta and back at £6 per cent. belonging to a London house, and I have seen a similar ship belonging to Liverpool, from London to Calcutta and back, for £4 at the same time.

5603. The vessels being equally seaworthy?—Yes.

5604. How much of that difference do you attribute to the greater danger of a voyage from London?—They were both from hence; but the private trade has that competition which the Company's trade and ships have not. The premium of out and home at £6 per cent. is an old established premium given in London, and given and taken in both ways.

5605. Why should not the Company's officers, who insure the goods they ship for China, insure them at a lower instead of a higher rate; they might go to any one might not they?—I do not know. There are old established connexions, and perhaps credit; and many of those who give £6 per cent. are under-writers themselves, and take six per cent. There is not that competition, nor ever was, that there would be if the trade were opened.

5606. You think the effect of opening the trade would be, that the insurance at this time of a good ship would be about £4 to Calcutta and back?—Yes; and £5 to Canton and back.

5607. Is it the same to Canton as it is to Calcutta?—There would be about one per cent. difference always.

5608. Where; to Canton more?—Yes.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MAXFIELD, is called in, and examined as follows :

17 June 1830.

Capt. W. Maxfield.

5609. WHAT is your profession, Captain Maxfield?—I have been employed in the naval service of the East India Company in India.

5610. Were you in that service many years?—For almost an uninterrupted period of twenty-five years.

5611. Had you occasion, during that period, to be frequently employed in different situations?—Yes, in various situations.

5612. Had you extensive means of becoming acquainted with the commercial shipping of the Company?—Yes.

5613. What is the number of men, and what is the number of guns, in a China ship of the largest dimensions and of the highest tonnage?—I should imagine, speaking from recollection, the number of men would be about 180, and probably, at the present time, from thirty to forty guns, in the 1200 or 1400 tons ships; from thirty to forty guns and 180 men; I think they generally estimate the men at ten per 100 tons.

5614. How many men would there be to work her?—If the question is meant in action, I should say the whole of the crew would not be more than would be competent to work; being very heavy-rigged vessels, or almost as heavy as a seventy-four, the whole 180 would be employed if there were much manœuvring; but to fight such a ship well with 180 men is quite out of the question.

5615. How many men ought there to be to each gun?—It depends on the size of the gun.

5616. What is the size of the guns?—I take it they mostly carry on their main decks eighteen-pounders; I dare say they do. I have seen some eighteen-pounders on board some of them, twelve and eighteen-pounders, and some of a lighter description of gun; they are not confined to any particular class of gun; the number of guns is settled by the Company. I speak from the belief of the variety of guns I have seen on board; I have seen some with the govers gun, and a variety of them; I believe that is optional with the owners; I am not positive.

5617. You cannot say how many men you think would be required to work half her guns?—Why, so to fight the guns and to work the ship at the same time, we must embrace the manœuvring of the vessel, as well as having the guns below. It would depend on how she was to be fought. If she were to be fought as a man-of-war, she requires a considerable number more than her ordinary complement; but if it is to be considered as that sort of defence you expect from a merchant ship with a limited number of hands, the action would be carried on with less spirit and effect than if the guns had more men to fight them.

5618. How

17 June 1830.

Capt. W. Maxfield.

5618. How should you estimate the efficiency of one of the Company's large China ships as a man-of-war; to what sized man-of-war would she be equal?—That is a difficult question to answer with reference to the actual number of men put on board agreeably to their present establishment. It would be invidious to say what I think of it as to a vessel of war; but it can best be answered by coming at what they have taken, and what they have been taken by.

5619. Will you state any instance of their having been taken?—I recollect the capture of the *Kent*, and of the *Triton*, two 800 ton ships. The *Kent* had troops on board independent of her crew; 100 or 200 troops besides the complement of the ship. The *Kent* was taken by a French privateer of sixteen or eighteen guns, called the "*Confiance*," in the bay of Bengal.

5620. How many guns had the *Kent*?—About thirty or forty guns on board, I suppose.

5621. Had she that number with only 800 tons?—I dare say she might have had thirty, for in war time I imagine the owners put on board more guns than the ordinary establishment now. I imagine she had thirty guns, but probably twenty-six; some 800 tons have twenty-six. I, however, think it is more than probable she had thirty at the time.

5622. You have been speaking of a China ship as having 180 men?—Yes.

5623. Do you know an instance of a China ship being taken?—I cannot call to my recollection any taken by a vessel of that description; I recollect the "*Brunswick*" being taken, but she was taken by a French eighty-four and two frigates; but that does not bear on the question. I cannot call to my recollection; it does not immediately occur to me.

5624. In what manner do the Company take up their ships for the China trade?—I believe they take up their ships generally by public tender, by advertisement.

5625. For what period of time?—I believe the China ships are by the letter of an Act of Parliament taken up for six voyages, except in some cases of emergency, in which the act permits the Company to engage them for one; but the generality of the China ships are engaged for six voyages certain.

5626. The Act permits the Company to take up ships that have gone six voyages for a shorter period afterwards?—Yes.

5627. The Act does not oblige the Company to take ships of a particular tonnage?—I cannot speak precisely to that particular Act, whether it limits them or not; but the general Act with respect to the commerce of India limited the size of free-traders to a certain tonnage; but I am not aware whether the act of the 58th of George the Third specifically adverts to the size. I suppose the Company are left to engage them as suits their convenience.

5628. Can you compare the trade to China for a ship of 600 tons and a ship of 1200 tons; what would be the difference?—I do not know what

17 June 1830. *Capt. W. Maxfield.* would be the difference; I cannot state what would be the difference; but there are so few ships of 1200 tons applicable to any trade in England, except the trade with China. There is no other trade England possesses that requires ships of that class. The ships being few, the competition must be comparatively trifling. It is not easy to come at the fact of the relative expense or rate at which such ships could sail; but I should conceive, that if I were permitted to trade to China, or any where else, and I had two ships, one of 1200 tons and the other of 600 tons, I should sail the 1200 ton ship for less than double the expense for which I could sail the other. It would not cost me more. But I should feel very reluctant in expending that large amount of capital in one block; it might not even be judicious to do it, though it might at first appear to be economy. That is quite a matter of opinion.

5629. You have never been in China yourself?—I have never been at China. I have been in the China seas cruising.

5630. Then any information you could give would be from hearsay?—As to China itself.

5631. Has a ship of 1200 tons any advantage over a ship of 600 tons, in navigating the China seas?—No. I am aware that large ships have some advantage in the port duties at China, from that mode of levying the duty by measurement; but I know of no other advantage that she would have.

5632. None in navigation?—No, not in point of navigation. I think she would have less advantage; she would be more likely to meet with accident than a smaller one, and she is less convenient for taking in cargo.

5633. Do you consider the East-India Company's mode of chartering ships as economical?—No.

5634. In what respect?—In illustrating why I conceive it not to be economical, it will be necessary to go into a little more than the chartering;—it is the application of the trade after getting possession of it, as well as the mode of taking the ships up. I beg to state why I consider it not economical. If the Company confine their trade with China to a class of ships with which there is no competition in the British market, it is quite clear these ships are built expressly for their trade, and being inapplicable to any other, it reduces the competitors in the market in their employment, and consequently augments the expense. But to say that they don't conduct their trade economically, I might go to the mode of loading their ships. Those large ships are taken up at the high rate of freight at which the Company have been hiring them during the war, say at forty-four pounds and fifty-five pounds per ton, which for many years were sent from India to China; not above one-half were laden on the Company's account; from Bombay to China not unfrequently above two-fifths laden on the Company's account; the remaining three-fifths became the emolument of the commander, who received on board cotton from Bombay, and carried it into the China market, and met the East-India Company in their own market. I can't consider

sider that an economical way of employing a ship, taking it at such a rate of freight. 17 June 1830.

5635. If a different mode of contracting for ships were pursued, you conceive there would be a saving in the commercial expenditure of the Company?—Undoubtedly; inasmuch as tonnage, I conceive, might be had at about ten pounds per ton to and from China. If the ships of the country, generally called A. at Lloyd's, were engaged instead of these large expensive ships, I conceive a saving might be made of between £500,000 and £700,000 a voyage on the whole of the ships engaged at one period in the East-India Company's service, imagining that they all made one voyage. I take the whole of the ships at one period in the employment of the Company, but they don't all make one voyage in the year; some of them are out, and some of them are at home, and some on their passage, some fitting out; I am taking the whole of the ships engaged. It is with reference to a statement I laid before the Court of Proprietors, describing the rate at which their ships were taken out; my observation applies to what is founded on that data. If they all made one voyage, such a sum would be saved. It would be a very considerable saving, for the larger ships are taken up as high as twenty-six pounds per ton; if a ship could be had at ten pounds per ton, the saving would be enormous.

Capt. W. Maxfield.

5636. Do you conceive there is any disadvantage, in a commercial point of view, in fitting up the East-India Company's ships in the expensive way they are, partly for commercial purposes and partly for warlike purposes?—No; I can't consider the advantage to be derived from the mode of equipping them commensurate with the increased expense attending it.

5637. Can you state an instance of a China ship being lost at sea?—I remember a ship called the "True Briton," that was never heard of, on her voyage from Bombay to China. But it may be as well to state that a ship that leaves China, as the Company's ships do, laden with tea—the finest and the lightest cargo in the world—must be a wretchedly bad ship if she can't make a voyage to Europe at the season of the year the most favourable of all others. There is an instance of one, the "Ganges," which was lost on the return voyage; that was a 1200 ton ship. A tea cargo is perhaps better adapted for rendering a ship safe than any other that can be put on board a ship.

5638. Are not articles exported to China less bulky than those imported from China?—I believe the East-India Company export very little to China, and what they do I don't suppose occupies one-third of the tonnage of the ship altogether. The freight is of great value, whether occupied or not; but they export articles of great value.

5639. Is not that the reason why they do not occupy so much room, that the articles are small in bulk and great in value?—Yes; that is a reason why they should furnish tonnage sufficient to bring home tea; but I have adverted to the lading of ships only partially from Bombay to China. It was the

17 June 1830. the more remarkable, as the Company at the period I allude to, when these ships were but half-laden from Bombay to China, received cotton as revenue from Guzerat, which they might and ought to have sent to China in their own ships, to pay for the tea.

Capt. W. Maxfield:

5640. Do you know what was the price of cotton at that time in India?—No; but cotton has always been an article of demand at China, and what in general realizes a profit. I think I might safely add, always from Bombay; but in general, certainly.

5641. The Americans trading in dollars principally to China, must, in an outward voyage, have almost the whole of the tonnage unoccupied?—Those ships which go direct to China; but the American ships, though they carry dollars, they occupy no room, and the ship makes a circuitous voyage by which she is navigated nearly two-thirds of the globe, carrying cargoes from port to port before she reaches China. I don't mention it as a general rule, but the American generally leaves his own country provided with dollars, and trades from port to port. I have found them in ports in India where an English merchant ship is hardly ever heard of.

5642. That was in former times, was it not?—It was before the free trade was open.

5643. Since the system of free trade, their trade has fallen off very much with India?—Yes; I conceive the free trade has been the ruin of the American trade altogether.

5644. They had ceased almost entirely to trade from port to port in India?—As far as my observation goes, it has been so much reduced that it could not fail to appear evidently; and I have little doubt that if the trade were open to China, it would ruin the American trade completely.

5645. State your reasons for entertaining that opinion?—The advantage of the American over the English trader is, that he can proceed unfettered to different ports. I believe the Americans, during the time I was in the Eastern Archipelago, were carrying away a good deal of the Dutch commerce. It struck me, that if the English free-trader were permitted to make voyages from port to port in those seas, they would derive those advantages which were of course preserved to the Americans. My opinion is grounded on the competition that would be effected by the free-trader being let loose against the Americans, which would of course prove injurious to their commerce.

5646. Do you think the apprehension of losing these advantages, which they had almost singly possessed before, has induced the Americans to relinquish any part of the trade in which they were before engaged?—The trade from port to port. There are several reasons, but they must be quite matter of opinion. I have communicated with a great many Americans, from a desire to obtain information. While cruising in India myself, I contemplated writing a work on the subject of the East-India Company's general establishments

ishments in India; and in communicating with many Americans, I frequently took the opportunity of observing to them, that I perceived there was much fewer of their shipping in those seas than I had seen before. I was given to understand the cause of it was, the trade was less profitable from the competition induced by the English free trade. I should imagine it was not unlikely that much of the capital was English capital, which was employed, probably, in foreign bottoms. Until the trade was open with India, that might have deprived them of the means to a great extent. I believe, if reference be had to the failures that took place in America immediately after opening the free trade, it would be discovered something or other operated most violently indeed on American commerce. I think, soon after the free-trade was opened, failures took place in America to an extraordinary extent.

. 5647. You laid before the Committee of the House of Commons a statement of the ships chartered by the East-India Company in the year 1826: have you got that statement?—Yes, I have a copy. If it is not precisely a copy, it is a calculation founded so nearly upon it, as to be substantially the same. The first, as it appears, is a copy of the names of ships and the rates at which they are engaged; and here is a statement also of the probable saving by engaging the tonnage at the rate at which it might be had if a smaller class of ships were engaged.

[*The following papers are delivered in by the witness, and are read :*]

17 June 1830.

Capt. W. Maxfield.

A STATEMENT

A STATEMENT, exhibiting the NAMES, NUMBER, and TONNAGE of all Ships now chartered by the EAST-INDIA COMPANY, of every Description: the Rates of Tonnage, and Number of Voyages for which they are engaged; and also the Names of the Owners of such Ships, and the Time or Date when they were engaged.

SHIPS' NAMES.	Tonnage.	Rates of Tonnage.	Number of Voyages.	OWNERS.	Time or Date when engaged.
Herefordshire	1,200	£. s. d.	..	John Locke.....	1811, Jan. 11.
Vansittart	1,200	21 18 9	6	Joseph Hare	July 10.
General Kyd.....	1,200	20 18 9	..	James Walker.....	—
Minerva.....	976	23 6 9	..	George Palmer.....	1812, Sept. 2.
Thomas Coutts.....	1,334 A.	22 2 10	..	Stewart Marjoribanks.....	1816, March 29.
Duke of York.....	1,327 A.	26 0 0	..	Stewart Marjoribanks.....	—
Orwell.....	1,335 A.	26 10 0	..	Matthew Isacke.....	—
Dunira.....	1,325 A.	26 19 6	..	George Palmer.....	June 5.
Windsor	1,332 A.	26 9 0	..	George Clay	Dec. 24.
Kellie Castle	1,332 A.	26 5 0	..	Stewart Erskine	1817, March 18.
Royal George.....	1,333 A.	26 4 0	..	John Fam. Timins.....	1818, Oct. 14.
Repulse	1,334 A.	25 13 0	..	John Fam. Timins.....	—
Farquharson.....	1,325 A.	25 14 0	..	John Christ. Lochner.....	—
Thames	1,325 A.	25 15 0	..	Henry Blanchard	—
Macqueen	1,330 A.	25 17 0	..	John Campbell	1819, Sept. 15.
William Fairlie	1,333 A.	25 7 0	..	Joseph Hare	—
Sir David Scott.....	1,348 A.	25 7 0	..	Joseph Hare	—
Berwickshire	1,342 A.	25 7 6	..	Stewart Marjoribanks.....	—
Hythe	1,332 A.	25 9 0	..	Stewart Marjoribanks.....	—
Duchess of Athol.....	1,333 A.	25 9 0	..	W. E. Ferrers.....	—
Bombay	1,330 A.	25 10 6	..	Henry Templer.....	1822, Nov. 13.
Charles Grant.....	1,242 A.	20 19 0	..	William Moffat.....	Nov. 12.
Lowther Castle.....	1,246 A.	20 12 0	..	John Creshwait.....	Nov. 13.
Abercrombie Robinson.....	1,427 A.	20 12 6	..	Henry Bonham.....	1823, July 2.
Edinburgh	1,331 A.	21 0 0	..	Henry Bonham.....	—
Lord Lowther.....	1,326 A.	21 0 0	..	Henry Bonham.....	—
Rose	1,332 A.	21 7 0	..	Thomas Milroy.....	—
Prince Regent.....	955 A.	19 19 0	..	Henry Bonham.....	—
Asia	953 A.	19 17 6	..	Henry Bonham.....	—
Marchioness of Ely.....	958 A.	19 17 6	..	Octavius Wigram.....	—
Marquis of Huntly.....	952 A.	19 19 0	..	John McTaggart.....	Sept. 3.
Atlas	1,279 A.	18 18 0	..	Rich. Borradaile.....	1824, Aug. 13.
Ingis	1,298 A.	18 5 0	..	Charles Otway Mayne.....	—
Atlas	1,267 A.	18 5 0	..	James Sims.....	—
Bridgewater.....	1,276 A.	18 4 0	..	William Sims.....	—
Warren Hastings.....	1,276 A.	15 7 0	..	Charles B. Griffee.....	Sept. 8.
Princess Charlotte of Wales.....	978 A.	19 2 0	..	—	—

	£.	s.	d.						
Marquis of Wellington...	961 A.	19	4	0	3	..	Henry Bonham	1824, Sept. 8.	
Warren Hastings	1,000 A.	18	5	0	2	..	John L. Minet	—	
Coldstream	733	12	5	0	1	..	John Dawson	1825, March 30.	
Guildford	533	12	19	0	1	..	James Mangles	—	
Albion	479	12	19	0	1	..	Charles Weller	—	
Childe Harold	463	12	19	6	1	..	Robert Granger	—	
Bussorah Merchant	510	4	10	0	..	..	Charles Stewart	—	
Malcolm	605	5	19	0	..	..	R. W. Eyles	—	
Lord Hungerford	*708	7	0	0	..	..	J. L. Heathorn	—	
Berwick	443	7	0	0	..	..	James Greig	—	
Commodore Hayes	678	7	18	0	..	These ships were engaged outwards for the voyage to Bengal.	George F. Young	—	
Broxbornebury	720	5	3	0	..	..	Alfred Chapman	—	
Java	1,175	6	2	6	..	..	Joseph Hare	—	
Cambridge	802	4	10	0	..	These ships were engaged for the voyage outwards to Bombay.	George Palmer	—	
Lady Kennaway	547	5	0	0	..	..	George Joad	—	
James Sibbald	665	6	9	0	..	..	Henry Blanshard	—	
Maitland	634	6	17	6	..	..	Fraser, Living, & Co.	—	
Orient	596	14	7	0	..	For one voyage to China and Quebec.	S. Marjoribanks & Co.	1825, May 4.	
Roxburgh Castle	599	14	9	0	..	..	Wigram & Green	—	
Countess of Harcourt	517	15	0	0	..	For one voyage to China and Halifax.	Henry Blanshard	—	
Java	1,175	10	18	0	..	To bring cargoes from China, after performing the service for which they were engaged, 30 March.	Joseph Hare	May 25.	
Broxbornebury	720	11	8	0	..	..	Alfred Chapman	—	
Marquis Hastings	452	10	19	0	..	To bring cargoes from China.	George Lyall	—	
Henry Porcher	500	10	19	0	..	..	S. Marjoribanks & Co.	—	
In room of the Kent	1,300 A.	21	0	0	..	6 ..	S. Marjoribanks & Co.	June 22.	
Clyde	451	6	19	6	..	To carry cargoes to Bengal.	Joseph Hare	July 15.	
Eliza	511	6	15	0	..	..	William Abercrombie	—	
Marquis Camden	1,286 A.	18	18	0	..	3 ..	Thomas Larkins	Aug. 17.	
Lady Melville	1,257 A.	18	19	0	..	3 ..	Octavius Wigram	—	
Castle Hundy	1,311 A.	18	19	6	..	3 ..	J. H. Gledstanes	—	
General Harris	1,280 A.	18	19	0	..	3 ..	James Sims	Aug. 24.	

The ships marked thus (A) are entitled to an extra freight of £1. 10s. per ton, if sent to the Island of Bombay, or to the Continent of India, and from either of those places to China.

East-India House,
January 17th, 1826.

17 June 1830.

Capt. W. Maxfield.

In January 1826, by papers laid before the Court of Proprietors, it appeared that the East-India Company had engaged for trade 47 ships; viz. 24 for six voyages, some of which were hired as high as £28 10s. per ton; others for three voyages; and only five for one voyage. The average rate of freight for such five was only £13. 6s. per ton each.

Now the chartered ships above mentioned, 47 in number, collectively amount to about 55,601 tons, and the rate of freight above stated cost the Company per voyage, exclusive of demurrage ... £1,187,778
 The Company have also seven ships of their own, which collectively amount to 8,897 tons, and which, by reference to the papers and accounts submitted to the Court of Proprietors in 1826, average, taking them altogether, for the voyages they have performed, an expense per voyage on the seven, of or about £27. 8s. 8d. per ton 244,074

Making together the sum of £1,431,852
 The amount charged for 64,498 tons of shipping for one voyage.

It is therefore evident that if the Company, instead of engaging ships, as above, for six and three voyages, had hired ships for one voyage only, at £13. 6s. per ton, the amount of freight on 64,498 tons of shipping would have only amounted to 857,823

And a saving per voyage effected of £574,029

There can be no doubt, however, that freight to almost any amount might be had to and from China at the rate of £10. 10s. per ton; and it is evident, if freight were engaged at such rate, a saving of no less than £754,623 per voyage might be effected in 64,498 tons of shipping.

Of the 24 ships taken up at the highest rate and engaged for six voyages, several are in the hands of one managing owner, some of whom have no less than five; consequently little comparative competition can be effected: while the ships engaged for one voyage at the lowest rate are generally the property and in the management of numerous individuals—hence the greater competition and the more reasonable rate of freight at which they are obtained.

5648. When you say something operated, at the time of the free trade being opened, to occasion bankruptcies, do you speak of English capital embarked in the American trade, and which was withdrawn in consequence of the free trade being opened?—Not expressly that, though I think that is fair; it is a matter of conjecture. I can only attribute it to what operated in the same manner on the free-trader too. When it was first thrown open, I believe the competition was so great that it led to serious distress among themselves; that was not a little augmented by the mode in which the Company conducted the trade at that moment. I think, if reference be had to the Company's trade at that time, when it was thrown open first, it will be seen they exported commodities they never sent to India before; that they were

were making their best efforts to intercept the free-trader, which were not a little augmented, in the manner I have suggested, by competition with each other, the free-traders, the Americans, and altogether. The Company sent out even claret, an article little adapted to the speculation of a body like the East-India Company.

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5649. Had it been sent out before?—By officers and individuals; but there is a difference between carrying a perishable commodity in a man's own possession and a Company.

5650. Refer to page twenty-eight of those papers printed in 1829, and look at the account, No. 15, of the quantity of American trade cleared out from the different parts of British India from 1816 to 1826 and 1827, and state whether it does not appear that the American tonnage having amounted to 7,008 tons in 1815-16, amounted to 15,145 in 1816-17; to 18,083 in 1817-18; and to 23,944 in 1818-19. The effect which you say was produced on the American trade to India, by opening the trade, did not take place until five years after that trade had been opened?—I do not see those sums alluded to in this. I have spoken without reference to dates. It is possible my observation might have referred to the subsequent period, in which there is that great reduction. It is not probable that commerce would change its course in the course of a year or two; it is the natural consequence; it will take a little time before they will fall off. Bankruptcies would ensue, and it must find different channels to get into. The effect would not be simultaneous, certainly.

5651. It appears from this account, however, that the competition in the India trade did not effect the reduction of the American trade until the year 1828, but gradually increased in the first four years in the account?—It is possible the American trade might have increased at those periods, owing to our increased territorial possessions in India, which, of course, furnished more markets for American produce as well as English. While a great spur was given to commerce by the arrival of the free-trader, perhaps it operated, in many points which are difficult to explain, but which are easy to imagine.

5652. Did not the peace between this country and the United States take place in 1815?—I believe it did, about that period.

5653. If, in the year 1815, a commercial treaty was signed with the United States, which secured to them certain privileges in the Indian trade, would not that naturally have led them, for the first few years after the signature of this commercial treaty, to go extensively into that trade so secured to them?—Undoubtedly.

5654. May not, therefore, the increase of the years 1816, 1817, 1818, and 1819, be ascribed to that circumstance?—I should think it might, in a very great degree. I was not aware of the alteration in the treaty.

5655. From what materials have you drawn up this statement you have given

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given in, of the names and numbers of ships chartered in the year 1826?—The paper exhibiting the names, number, and tonnage of the ships chartered in 1826, was a document furnished to me, as a proprietor of the East-India stock, by the East India Company at the India-House.

5656. That is official?—It is.

5657. What is the average voyage of one of the East-India Company's ships from London to China and back, supposing a direct voyage?—It is a difficult question to answer well. A free-trader, I conceive, might make the voyage out and home in twelve months, and an East-India ship ought to be able to do every thing which a free-trader can; but as they send them circuitously, and often let them lay here at different parts of England, I have no hesitation in saying, that if I turned trader, and understood it, I would find the means of carrying out a cargo, if I were permitted, to China, if the Company carried on their trade in the mode they do now, before they get to Bombay; I would be at China, from the delay in their mode of transacting business. I can best illustrate it by saying that a captain of an East-Indiaman told me he gave up commanding one of their ships, because he could trade more conveniently by the free-trader, and pay for freight; "for," said he, "before I get my investment out, I am anticipated at Singapore by the free-trader; they have supplied the market; and in the Company's ship I lose my chance, from the delay occasioned by going to this place and the other."

5658. Does that apply to the Company's ships bound direct from hence to China?—The direct ships that go from hence to China touch either at St. Helena or Madras; I don't believe any go direct from England without touching at some port; I imagine they touch somewhere.

5659. You don't know what length of time it does take to effect a voyage in one of the Company's ships from England to China and back, without touching?—No, I can't precisely answer the question.

5660. Do you consider the delays you allude to are inherent in the system in which the Company carry on trade to China, or are they delays that must be obviated by the Company itself?—They determine that their ships shall be at such an anchorage at such a time, and proceed very mechanically to work with them. They are to be in the Downs at such a period, and to sail by those periods; but the consequence must be apparent, when I advert to what happened during the Burmese war. To the best of my recollection, stores were required to be taken to India, and were about to be sent out by some of the ships then sailing. It occurred to me that those stores required the utmost expedition possible. The recollection occurred, how insufficient those ships were for such purpose, sailing at stated periods, while there were plenty of free-traders ready to sail, who could take them on board at an hour's notice; and if military stores were imperiously wanted, I put it to any one whether it would not have been not only more economical, but more advantageous, to have sent them at once than by this tardy process.

5661. Does

5661. Does part of the delay arise from the size of the ships they engage? —A great part of the delay in lading a ship in a river must depend on the size; that is, in Calcutta a large ship would only advance as far as Saugor, while a ship of small size would proceed to discharge her cargo at Calcutta, and take in a fresh one. It is evident the communication by boats must create considerable delay.

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5662. Do you conceive that if the private trader were permitted to trade to the port of Canton, he would find it his interest to, proceed directly to Canton, without touching at any place, as the Company's ships do?—It would not be to the interest of an individual to make the voyage direct. A man who sets out on a speculative voyage, would do as the Americans do, go from this port to the other, until he can get a cargo to suit, and perhaps they change cargo two or three times; that would perhaps be the most beneficial voyage to him as a merchant, but it would also be a desirable voyage, as far as the state is concerned, in exciting enterprize and making good sailors.

5663. Did you ever know any Indiaman armed with as heavy guns as you have spoken of, eighteen-pounders?—I have seen some with twelve and eighteen-pounders, a few eighteen.

5664. You have stated one Indiamen was taken by a privateer having eighteen guns?—Sixteen or eighteen.

5665. Do you think an Indiaman, manned and armed as they are, could make an effectual defence against any man-of-war of the smallest size?—If it blew hard, an Indiaman of 1300 tons might run a small man-of-war down.

5666. But if there were a fair fight between the two?—It is a difficult question to answer with accuracy. I imagine a ship or privateer of twenty guns would seek to engage one Indiaman.

5667. And when well managed and when well fought, ought to take her?—I think she would take her.

5668. In time of war do the Company's ships sail with convoy or not?—With convoy wherever convoy can be had.

5669. If an adequate convoy were supplied to them, this expensive armament would not be necessary?—Undoubtedly not.

5670. Do they ever venture to run alone in time of war?—Yes, frequently; but, perhaps, to meet the question in the broadest shape, it would be worth while to refer to what would be the insurance at Lloyd's on ships sailing; I am not aware what it would be, but the Committee would see the comparative profit or loss in a commercial point of view, by what the Underwriters would insure a Company's ship, or any other, in time of war. I don't imagine it would make a great difference.

5671. Do they sail better than ordinary merchantmen?—Why, most of the

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the Company's large ships are certainly good sailers, very fine ships, and they ought to be very fine ships, for they are very expensive ones; but there may be found among merchants many good sailing ships, and some bad ones. I have seen some of the Indiamen sail as bad and as well.

5672. Is the building of a Chinaman like the building of a man of war, or principally adapted for carrying a cargo?—By no means. In the building of a man-of-war, she is expressly adapted for guns and war; they have guns and port-holes also, but her bottom is widely different in the shape as well as the general construction. The Indiaman is not particularly well adapted for war; they are all able to have guns aboard, but they are not adapted for fast sailing.

5673. She would not be able to run away from a man-of-war?—Unless the man-of-war was a bad sailer, a man-of-war ought to catch her upon a wind, or free, or any way.

5674. Is there any disadvantage in having those large ships so occupied in time of peace?—I can't conceive any.

5675. If it is advisable to have that class of ships in time of war, are they retained for use in time of peace merely because they have been employed before?—I conclude that is the principal cause; and also, if you refer to their being taken up six voyages, you can't get rid of them till they have run six voyages out; and next, it would appear hard to induce a man to build a ship inapplicable to other commerce, unless you continue to employ her till she is worn out. Generally there is a desire to build such a ship of that class, knowing they are paid a high degree of freight for them, the owners secure, under certain circumstances, permission to build again on the keel; or, if the ship is lost, there is a clause in the Act enabling them to build another to run the remainder of the period.

5676. So the practice of having vessels of that size and of that construction in time of war, necessarily involves a corresponding expense in time of peace, that otherwise would be useless?—Clearly so.

5677. That is only until the expiration of the existing contract; at the end of six years all the ships must have run out?—No, not at the end of six years—six voyages.

5678. Have the Company made no new contracts with ships of that large tonnage in time of peace?—Yes, constantly, and they are doing it to this hour, I suppose.

5679. With what view?—Mostly, probably, to the continuance of their commerce.

5680. As these large ships are useless in time of peace, and as it appears by your evidence smaller ships would be more convenient, to what do you attribute the East-India Company having persevered in the time of peace, when they are not compelled to do so, contracting for the construction of these very large ships?—I can't understand, unless it is a predilection they have for large ships, with the particulars of which I am unacquainted. They have

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have a common partiality for that class of ships; and they have, in effect, shewn, not only partiality for it, but conferred advantages on owners and officers of those ships, which are inconceivable. I shall illustrate that by saying, that the East-India Company, by their regulations, give the owners of these ships the power of conferring military rank on the commanders, and they give the commanders of these regular ships a precedence with captains of marines, by which they give them a rank equal with that of lieutenant-colonels in the army. If the owner of a ship is building a ship for the Company, and letting it, he has the means of conferring military rank on the person commanding, whatever his age or standing is, if he is eligible to command, which he is after having served so many voyages.

5681. Military rank in India?—Yes; perhaps I may explain that last piece of evidence; I mean precedence. I don't know whether I ought to apply "rank" to it; I mean precedence.

5682. What sized ships, on the whole, do you think it would be most advantageous to carry on the commerce with?—I think 500 or 600 tons would be sufficient to carry on the commerce with the whole globe.

5683. Is that the size used generally by the free-traders?—Yes. As a reason for stating a ship of 500 or 600 tons is sufficiently large, and best adapted to carry on trade with any part of the world, I should mention she is a block of infinitely less value than a larger one; consequently, a man of small capital can fit out such a ship, while the possession of the large ship would be confined to fewer. At the same time, it would be easier to load a small ship at all times than a large one. A cargo might be had for a small vessel when a full quantity could not for a large ship.

5684. You think there is no particular reason attached to the trade in tea at China, which renders it more desirable to have ships of a larger size?—I am not aware of any, except the advantage derived from the port dues at Canton; if it were a very considerable advantage, the Americans would have followed the example, and have taken larger ones.

5685. There is no greater danger of breakage of chests of tea in a small vessel than a large one?—I imagine not, if the ship is good, and properly taken care of.

5686. Do you know the average size of vessels that trade to Canton?—I only speak from fact; I have not been at Canton. I suppose an American ship is generally of a smaller class—from 400 to 600 or 700 tons. It is a large ship for an American, 600 or 700 tons.

5687. How do the Americans conduct their voyage with the ports between America and China that they visit?—That would be a difficult thing to say; they are in the habit of making the most circuitous voyages of any traders in the world occasionally.

5688. Do you not conceive that the system which is now pursued by the East-India Company, both in their mode of building and the fitting out of their

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their ships, as forming a valuable part of their power and patronage?—Undoubtedly.

5689. How is that, if they take ships by tender only?—The ships built for the East-India Company themselves, called the Company's own ships, constitute employment for a certain number of captains and officers, the employments for whom are in the gift of the Court of Directors; and that becomes direct and positive patronage.

5690. How many of these ships are there?—Seven, I think; there were seven when that return was made.

5691. As regards the others, which form the greater number, is there any patronage exercised in the hiring of them?—There is one piece of patronage, the value of which I cannot pretend to state, which is the gift of the voyage. The Directors individually have the nomination to certain voyages. I speak from hearsay. The gift of a China voyage is always considered a very good thing. Many years ago it was a very large advantage.

5692. To whom is it a good thing?—To the captain; the gift of the voyage to the captain. The nomination of the voyage to the ship is the patronage I advert to.

5693. There is no patronage to the person who furnishes the ship?—The person who furnishes the ship has the patronage of appointing the commander to the ship, *ab origine*; the voyage afterwards is the patronage of the Court of Directors; that is, the nomination to the voyage. The person is originally appointed by the owner, with the concurrence of the Company; probably the captain is a part-owner of the ship in many cases. The patronage I alluded to of the Court was the nomination to the voyages—the destination of the ship.

5694. After it is taken up for a certain number of voyages?—The different number of voyages.

5695. When they do take up ships, don't they state for what purpose they are to be employed?—I apprehend the charter-parties are pretty general, and not to particular voyages. I suppose, by the form of the charter-party, they can employ it in any port they chuse.

5696. When a ship is taken up at a certain rate of freight for six voyages, what is the condition which the person who lets that ship to the Company, takes upon himself; is he obliged, at so much a year, or at so much for the outward and homeward voyage, to furnish that ship?—I believe it is at so much per ton per voyage. This is a fact well known; though I can't speak from more than a general knowledge of the fact, never having had a ship of my own. They take up ships, I believe, at so many pounds per ton per voyage, being entitled to the demurrage under particular circumstances; that is, such as the present detention at China. I suppose the owner is deriving demurrage for the whole period his ship is detained.

5697. The

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5697. The East-India Company having taken up the ships at eighteen guineas a ton, does it entirely rest with the Company whether they shall go to India and then home, or go to China direct, or make a circuitous voyage to China; does the rate of freight remain the same whatever the voyage is?—No; for as the ships are taken up, almost all are numbered. In that list there are stars placed against the ships which are entitled to £1. 10s. more if they are sent to ports in India. At the conclusion of the list it specifies that.

5698. So that it is an advantage to the owner of a ship that it shall be sent to China rather than to India?—I don't know that the owner has any particular advantage in it; I don't know that it is of importance to him where it is sent to.

5699. The advantage is to the captain?—The advantage of the voyage must be to the captain important.

5700. From your knowledge of the Bombay marine, are you of opinion that it is absolutely necessary that the service should be performed by a marine at the disposal of the local governments, or might it not be performed by ships in the King's service?—Undoubtedly his Majesty's ships are equal to perform any duty the British Government can impose on them; whether it would be conducive to the convenience of the government in India that they should be left to perform their duty as they thought proper, or as the government wished, I leave the Committee to determine.

5701. What, in your opinion, are the peculiar advantages in having a marine at the entire disposal of the local governments, if the Bombay marine is now sufficient?—Government is constantly in want of vessels of war; and unless some are at their disposal, they must be very often reduced to considerable difficulty. I think it will illustrate the fact by shewing that in the year 1813, when a dispute was likely to take place with the Emperor of Ava, the government sent a twenty-gun ship from Calcutta at their disposal, and possibly averted a war which must have resulted had they had no vessel of force to have overawed the Burmese.

5702. Could not all the service performed by the Bombay marine be performed by the King's ships in India, as similar services are performed in the King's colonies and elsewhere?—Undoubtedly, if they are placed sufficiently under the authority of government, or at the disposal of government; if government possesses sufficient authority to send them where they think needful.

5703. Can you form an estimate of the comparative cost of a King's ship and a Company's ship of the Bombay Marines?—No, I have no means of forming a correct estimate; and to take the expense of a Bombay marine from the amount carried to the debit of the marine under the common head of marine charges of India, would be an erroneous mode of estimating the actual expense of particular ships; for, I believe, under the head of marine charges are lumped a great many other charges, which might make it appear

17 June 1830. a very small force was retained at an enormous expence. I individually believe, from my knowledge of the mode of outfit, that they are generally conducted very economically.

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5704. More so than the King's ships?—I can't speak to the fact. I have no actual experience of the expense of one of his Majesty's ships; I have no hesitation in saying they are usually comparatively much cheaper than the Company's merchant ships. Of course a ship with a great number of men must be, in point of comparison as to size, more expensive. But looking at one as a man-of-war, and at another as a merchantman, they are infinitely cheaper.

5705. What proportion of the crews consisted of natives of the East at the time you were acquainted with the marine?—It has been in different ships in different numbers. I have commanded a twenty gun ship belonging to the Company, in which we had not about twenty natives, all the rest were Europeans. Much depends on the exertions of the commander himself, who would endeavour to procure a crew; for the government furnished you with no means, neither furnished you with men, nor were there men provided from this country for manning the marine. It more particularly depends on the exertions of the commander to pick up a crew; they were generally a motley set of Europeans and natives, and such as they could collect.

5706. Where did he find them?—You send to crimps in public houses at periods; and when it was inquired if any men were to be had, I gave the crimp an allowance; he is usually called the crimp; he brought you men where he could.

5707. Of what description; did you get the worst description of men out of vessels of all nations?—Not the worst; but, speaking of them as a crew of a man-of-war, an inferior crew. Not the worst of all nations; occasionally there are very good men. I have commanded a ship out of Bengal remarkably well manned; but it proceeded from the circumstance of a great many English seamen being to be found in Bengal unemployed. I had little difficulty there, but it was great at Bombay.

5708. Have not the Company sent out seamen from this country?—Not in my recollection seamen; they have sent out marine boys, perhaps, lads from the Marine Society. I don't recollect during my time their sending out men.

5709. In any number?—Yes; at one time they sent out a few hundreds of them, but afterwards they desisted; in fact, there was no system adopted for manning the marine, during the whole time I was in it, by either of the governments; at least, it was under the efforts of the commander himself.

5710. Were the native sailors all Malabars?—No.

5711. What was your whole complement of your ship of twenty guns?—The Malabar had about 140 men on board.

5712. What was the extent of the Bombay marine, and what was its force, when you were in command?—At different times, I was in it twenty-five years,

years, sometimes more and sometimes less. Latterly it has been so small as to be insignificant. 17 June 1830.

5713. In war time?—We had at one period a fifty-gun frigate, another of thirty-two guns, and a twenty-gun ship, and some smaller vessels; but during the last few years of my service they had no frigate at all. It was most insignificant as a naval service, from the inefficiency and neglect that was shown; it was neither provided with a code of laws, nor with men. *Capt. W. Maxfield.*

5714. That twenty-gun ship was your own?—Belonging to the government; I commanded her.

5715. Had you an opportunity to try your men in action?—Yes; not in that ship; I was in the expedition to Java, but they did not come into action. I have on other occasions been in action; the crews have generally behaved remarkably well; but the composition of the men, speaking of them as men of war, is very inferior.

5716. And you had the means of enforcing discipline, but it was not very good?—Much would depend on your own judicious management. You are furnished with no legitimate authority. There was a system of discipline preserved with much pain and difficulty, and in many cases it answered tolerably well; but it more particularly hinged on the management of the commander himself.

5717. It is a service in which promotion is extremely slow?—Very.

5718. It offers very few inducements for a gentleman to enter it?—Very few, indeed.

5719. The Arabs are very efficient seamen, are they not?—They are very muscular, strong, hardy men; but I can't say that they could bear any comparison with an English sailor; they are some of them remarkably muscular and strong, equal with the European; but that is not the composition of the native crews; they are natives of India, Mahomedans.

5720. Which are the best seamen of that country?—The Gogorees, from a small place in the Gulph of Cambay; they are the best native sailors.

5721. Are they good seamen between the coast of Malabar and the Red Sea in Arabia?—They have large ships. Speaking of Arabs, we should say, at all times they were very lubberly; they are brave and hardy, and would fight very well, but without organization; that sort of fighting which would result from bravery without discipline. I should not call them good seamen.

5722. What number of native seamen could you venture to put on board a man-of-war, without diminishing her efficiency as a fighting vessel?—I would not wish to have more than would man a couple of boats; they are less likely to drink, and give you trouble by getting drunk on shore, than the English. I contrived to have a couple of boats' crew; and, having so few, I contrive to get very good men. I should be sorry to command a cruiser with a large proportion of natives on board. If opposed to an European enemy, I would prefer my own countrymen.

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5723. Is not the heat so extreme in the Gulph of Persia as to make it necessary to have the natives to perform the ordinary duties on deck?—I can't conceive it imperatively necessary to have the natives to perform the ordinary duties on deck. Our soldiers have their duty to perform in India: it is more irksome to perform the duty of a common soldier on shore than it is for a sailor.

5724. Have you ever turned your attention to any improvements it would be possible to introduce into the Bombay Marine?—Yes; I submitted to the Court of Directors, when I first returned from India, some plan for improving the corps; but I ceased to turn my attention to it. Finding such a variety of difficulties to be got over, which I saw no prospect of surmounting, I gave it up.

5725. Can you state the outline of that plan?—I think I have a copy of some part of the plan, which I can submit; it is not with me at present.

5726. Though you have not been in China, you have had an opportunity of seeing a good deal of the Chinese in the Eastern Islands?—Yes; and I have met with them there when I was at the Eastern Archipelago.

5727. Do you find them generally superior to the inhabitants of the East, in habits of commercial enterprise and activity?—Taking them as artificers, they are undoubtedly very superior, and their merchants are not inferior in ability; there will be found, among many of the natives of India, men gifted both as merchants, and in every way quite to be compared with the merchants of every other country. The Chinese are distinguished as merchants as well as artificers.

5728. Were you ever in the Red Sea?—Yes, three times.

5729. Would there be any difficulty in navigating steam-boats?—Not any.

5730. Do you find a difficulty in navigating it in a sailing vessel?—No, not any.

5731. All the dangers were laid down, and above water?—The principal difficulty that occurred was, the want of accurate charts, which is now compensated in some measure. I was in the Red Sea on a survey myself; many ships were lost in the expedition, but it was owing to the sea abounding with shoals, and having no good chart to guide them.

5732. They are very well laid down at present?—I can't say the Red Sea is, as far as my knowledge went, for we were on a survey for a short time, unless some accurate survey has taken place since; it abounds with shoals; but the direct navigation for ships is clear and extensive enough; so that a ship with a good chronometer has plenty of room. Indeed a man must be an inferior navigator who could not contrive to get up and down under ordinary circumstances safely.

5733. The gales are not very severe in other parts of the Red Sea?—They blow

blow hard for a short time, but they seldom last long; they blow hard for a short period. 17 June 1830.

5734. What prevented you completing your survey?—I accompanied Lord Valentia in 1813, and commanded a small vessel. He was in a larger one. The vessel I commanded was found to be excessively rotten—not seaworthy. It was condemned at Mocha, and I returned to Bombay; he went on, and landed at Suez. It was a cursory survey. The Court of Directors appointed me to survey the Red Sea, but Government never had their orders carried into execution. *Capt. W. Maxfield.*

5735. They were sent to Bombay?—They were sent, through the government at Bengal, to Bombay, but never were acted upon.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till to-morrow, One o'clock.

Part XXXIII.—XXXVIII.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO

ENQUIRE INTO THE PRESENT STATE

OF THE

· AFFAIRS OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND INTO THE

**TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN, THE EAST-INDIES,
AND CHINA;**

AND TO REPORT TO THE HOUSE.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Die Veneris, 18° Junii 1830.

<i>Hollingworth Magniac, Esq.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	p. 726
<i>John Crawford, Esq.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	740

Die Martis, 22° Junii 1830.

<i>Mr. William Brown</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	748
<i>Mr. Richard Milne</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	755

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<i>Sir James Brabazon Urmston</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	764
<i>Walter Stevenson Davidson, Esq.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	783

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<i>Walter Stevenson Davidson, Esq.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	790
<i>Mr. Thomas Mills</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	799

Die Jovis, 1° Julii 1830.

<i>Mr. Richard Shaw</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	819
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Die Martis, 6° Julii 1830.

<i>Captain Richard Alsager</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	833
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Die Veneris, 18^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.



HOLLINGWORTH MAGNIAC, Esq. is called in, and examined as follows:

18 June 1830.

H. Magniac, Esq.

5736. You were an agent at Canton, were you not?—I was.

5737. For how many years?—I first went out in 1809; I returned home finally in January 1827; I was at home at two intervals during that period; I was not resident there the whole of the time.

5738. Did you transact business on your own account, as well as for your constituents?—Occasionally.

5739. To any extent?—To a considerable extent in opium, and also in goods to England latterly.

5740. Who were your principal employers; persons engaged in the country trade entirely?—Almost entirely.

5741. Have you at any time done any business for persons residing in England?—Very trifling.

5742. Of what articles did their exports consist?—Formerly there was a little business going on in Prussian blue, and a few manufactures of that kind from England; but of late years that has been entirely done away by the Chinese having acquired the art of making it themselves; it was to a small extent.

5743. Were you at any time engaged in selling woollens or cottons for English merchants?—Never woollens, that I recollect; and very little cottons during my time; but since I have been away, I believe the house has had considerable consignments in cottons and cotton yarns, but to what extent I am unable to say.

5744. During the whole of that period it would have been possible, would it not, to have sent the manufactures of England to Sincapore, and thence tranship them to China?—I conceive it would.

5745. What would have been the charge of transshipping those goods outwards at Sincapore?—I am not aware what commission the agent would charge there, but I believe so much a package; I should not think it can amount to more than a half per cent.; not one per cent.

5746. With that additional charge, English manufactures could then, and can now, be sent to China?—I conceive so.

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5747. That would be the amount of charge additional to that which would be incurred, if they were sent directly to China?—Yes; English manufactures could then and can now be sent direct to China in the Company's ships, with the exception of woollens.

5748. To what extent may they be sent by the Company's ships?—To a considerable extent; the ships go out almost empty direct to China.

5749. Do the merchants of Great Britain consign any quantity of goods direct to China by those ships?—Yes; there is no impediment, I believe.

5750. If those goods are sent in the Company's ships, do the Company's factors sell them at Canton, or do the owners sell them by means of their own agents?—The Company's agents are not permitted to transact any business, excepting for the Company.

5751. The price of woollens and of cottons having fallen about fifty per cent. in the course of the last ten years, and such facilities as you have mentioned existing, of sending British manufactures to Canton by the Company's ships, and by the channel of Singapore, to what circumstances do you attribute the non-existence of any considerable export of those manufactures?—I have stated the facilities to exist, because I am not aware of any impediment, but I have never tried them myself. The impediment consists in the difficulty of making returns direct to England.

5752. The British merchant has at present, has he not, the means of exporting from China, by way of Singapore, all Chinese produce and manufactures to England, with the exception of tea?—Yes, I believe he has.

5753. With the small additional charge upon transhipment you have mentioned at Singapore?—Yes.

5754. It is therefore the want of the remittance in tea which, in your opinion, creates the great difficulty in the returns?—The want of some return. Tea would be a very eligible one, no doubt.

5755. Are there not at present all other kinds of remittance, except that by tea?—Yes, I believe there are. There are means of making returns in the Company's ships to a certain extent in the commanders' and officers' privilege.

5756. Will you have the goodness to explain the course of trade which you carried on when you resided at Canton?—The trade we carried on, independently of acting as agents, was principally in opium, almost entirely indeed; and the simple proceeding in that was, to remit funds from China to India for the purchase of the opium, which was then transmitted to the house in China, and the funds returned again to India for a repetition of the proceeding the ensuing season.

5757. What was the course of the trade which passed through your hands as agents?—Consignments from India, and a return of the funds there or to England, if possible, as we were instructed.

5758. Did

5758. Did you, to a considerable extent, return those funds to England? 18 June 1830.
—As far as we were able ourselves, we did so.

5759. In what articles did you return those funds to England?—We *H. Magniac, Esq.*
generally sent home such goods as we thought would answer our purpose in England, and drew against them.

5760. What were those goods?—Raw silk, silk piece-goods, nankeens, and also bullion and dollars occasionally. The remittances in bullion and dollars have occurred of late years, since the exchange has been so low.

5761. Was the profit upon those articles considerable generally?—No, certainly not.

5762. Those returns only effected the object of remitting your funds to England?—Exactly; and would only be done when the exchange was very low in China—such as 4s. to 4s. 2d.

5763. Where did you purchase the opium which you exported to China?—At the Company's sales, through our agents, either at Bombay or Bengal.

5764. Did you ever purchase any at the Portuguese settlement?—Never, while the concern was under my management.

5765. Have you ever exported Turkey opium?—No; but we have purchased it very often in China.

5766. To any considerable extent?—Sometimes to a considerable extent.

5767. Is the sale of Turkey opium so considerable in China as to interfere with the price of the opium from Bengal?—It no doubt interferes so far as it increases the quantity imported, and is likely to do so more, perhaps, as I believe its consumption has greatly increased.

5768. Is it as well adapted to the taste of the Chinese as that from India?—No, it is not.

5769. For what purpose is that opium generally used?—For smoking, I believe; for medical purposes; that it is much stronger and better; but it is not so pleasant for smoking, being stronger; and I believe the Chinese mix it with the other kinds.

5770. Do you know whether the trade in Turkey opium is increasing?—It has increased.

5771. As rapidly as the trade in opium from India?—I believe about as rapidly, supposing my information to be correct.

5772. What is the present price of a chest of Bengal opium?—The latest price-current I have received was dated in December last; 830 dollars per chest for Patna opium was there quoted.

5773. What was the price of Malwa opium at the same time?—At that time the Malwa was 780 dollars, but in January it was 730, a fall of fifty dollars having taken place on the Malwa, but not on the Patna.

5774. What was the price of Turkey opium at that time?—700 dollars.
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5775. Is not the price of the Malwa opium usually higher than that of the Bengal opium?—It was during the early importations very much below the Patna and Benares, which it gradually attained, or nearly so; but by the last accounts it appears to be 100 dollars under those kinds.

5776. Is the opium of Patna used for the same purposes as the opium of Malwa?—It is all used for the same purposes.

5777. What has been, within your recollection, the price of Patna opium?—Extremely various. I have known it as low as 700 dollars, and I have known it as high as 2,000 dollars.

5778. Have you known so great a variation in the price of Malwa opium?—Not so great. The Malwa opium has been introducing itself gradually for a series of years, and has been working upwards with reference to the Patna, returning a comparative value.

5779. The Malwa has more strength, has it not?—The Chinese use it entirely for smoking; and in reducing it to a fit state for that purpose, the Patna produces usually fifty or fifty-one per cent. of smokable extract. The Malwa, on the contrary, should yield from seventy to seventy-four or seventy-five. Seventy-two may be taken as the average, when of good quality.

5780. Is the smokable extract produced by the Patna opium superior to that produced by the Malwa opium?—I believe it is considered more delicate, and it would appear to be so, as the price has almost always exceeded that of the other kinds.

5781. The price has never been in the proportion which the smokable extract of one opium bore to the smokable extract of the other?—In the earlier introduction of the Malwa, the disproportion was very great in that respect; but the Malwa opium was then working up-hill into general use; now it has become more nearly equal in that respect.

5782. It appears by the account of the value and quantities of cargoes imported into Canton and Macao on the tonnage employed in the country trade, that in the year 1817-18, 2,435 chests of opium were imported into China; in the year 1820-21, 3,377; in the year 1823-24, 5,930; in the year 1825-26, 11,050; and in the year 1827-28, 9,475 chests; are you enabled to state what the imports into China were in the years 1828-29 and 1829-30, specifying the quantity of Turkey and Indian opium?—I am afraid that I cannot give the imports separately, but the total amount of Indian opium consumed in China in the year 1828-29 was 13,132 chests, shewing an increase over the previous year of 3,657 chests, and yielding in dollars 12,533,115. The quantity of Turkey opium consumed in that year was 1,600 peculs. The chests of Indian opium are assumed to contain each a pecul; they contain much more in fact when it first arrives in China, but a considerable reduction in weight occurs in the keeping. A pecul consists of a hundred catties. On its arrival in China, a chest of Indian opium usually weighs about a hundred and fifteen catties, but it loses so much in the course of a few

few months, that a chest which weighed a hundred and twelve originally will yield at the end of the season a hundred catties only. The Turkey opium consumed as before stated amounted in value to 1,040,000 dollars, making a total of 13,573,115 dollars for the total consumption of opium, Indian and Turkey, for China in that year.

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5783. Will you state the quantities in 1829 and 1830?—I can state for that year the different quantities sold by the Company. In Calcutta the Patna and Benares amounted to 7,909 chests. The quantity of Malwa declared for sale was not to exceed 4,000 chests; I have taken it therefore at that amount. The opium that came into China through the Portuguese settlement of Damaun amounted (and it had all arrived in China) to 4,596 chests, making a total for the market in 1829-30 of chests 16,305. Of the Turkey opium for that year I have no account, but I have estimated the quantity for that year at 1,800 peculs, which I think may be about the amount, which would make a total of 18,105 chests of opium.

5784. Can you state the value of that importation in 1829-30?—I have an actual return of consumption for the first six months of that year; the year commences on the 1st of April 1829; the actual consumption of the first six months in Indian opium amounted to 8,041 chests, and yielded 7,161,154 dollars. In order to arrive at a conclusion for the ensuing six months, of which I have no actual return, I have therefore taken a sort of average, under the latest quotations of prices which I have received, shewing a fall of nearly 100 dollars in the Malwa opium; supposing the same number of chests to be consumed in the last six months, therefore, they would produce 6,600,000 dollars, shewing a total of 13,760,000 dollars. I find that the price of Turkey opium had increased very much, having attained 700 dollars, while the Malwa was only 730. That is quite at variance with my experience formerly.

5785. What would be the total amount of that opium imported into China in the year 1829-30, if the whole of the Turkey opium had been sold at the price you have stated?—I estimate the consumption at 1,800 peculs, but I may be mistaken. Supposing that to be correct, however, the amount would be, 1,260,000; but as this kind is very fluctuating in its consumption and price, I am almost unable to make an estimate with any certainty.

5786. To what circumstance do you attribute the great increase of the opium trade within the last ten years; was it formerly conducted under different circumstances?—In some degree it was; but I think that it has been gradually extending itself over China, owing to the price being now much lower than it was when the quantity was smaller.

5787. What has been the diminution in price, on an average?—That is a matter of calculation, which I cannot answer without going back to previous years, and comparing the prices.

5788. Was the price of 2,000 dollars you mentioned for Patna opium an extraordinary

18 June 1830. extraordinary price?—It was a very high price. I believe it has been as high as 2,500 at one time, but not at the time I was in China.

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5789. Should you say that, on the average, the price of opium had fallen fifty per cent. ?—I think I may say forty per cent.

5790. Was not the whole of the trade formerly carried on at Macao ?—Yes.

5791. What circumstance induced the merchants importers to deviate from the practice of transacting the whole of their opium business at Macao ?—The duties and charges that the Portuguese imposed, and the difficulties the Mandarins there threw in the way of the trade, which partially drove it to Whampoa, and finally and entirely to the place where it is now carried on.

5792. At periods when the ordinary trade of the Company has been interrupted, has the opium trade been interrupted likewise ?—That would have no effect upon it, generally speaking.

5793. Is it understood that the importation of opium from Damaun has been very profitable ?—It has been very profitable, but not the last season.

5794. Do you know in what manner the opium is brought to Damaun ?—I do not ; I have no local knowledge in that quarter.

5795. In whose hands is that particular branch of the trade ?—The hands of the Parsees principally.

5796. Do the Portuguese share in it to any extent ?—To a certain extent they do, but not to a great extent.

5797. What is the price of a chest of opium at Calcutta ?—It varies very much.

5798. What is the average price, when you speak of the price at Canton being 700 dollars ?—I should think about 1,500 to 1,700 rupees ; but I have not data to give an accurate answer to that question, it varies so very much.

5799. If the price of the Calcutta opium were lowered, even in a small degree, could the Turkey opium come into competition with it ?—The lowering the price of the Bengal opium must affect the price of the Turkey opium.

5800. Do you know at what price Turkey opium can be imported at a profit ?—I do not know ; for I never purchased any in Europe. It is principally in the hands of the Americans ; in fact, almost entirely in the hands of one American house, who have nearly a monopoly of it in China. By holding such large quantities, they have a greater command of the market there.

5801. You do not know whether it has been a profitable transaction or not, at the rate of 700 dollars a chest ?—I should think it must have been so ; but that is the latest price. I have known it 450, and 500, and 550. It has risen very considerably since I left China, two years ago. It fluctuated

tuated very much, according to the quantities thrown in, and the Turkey being principally in one house, they controlled the market almost as they pleased. 18 June 1830.
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5802. Are you able to state at what price it becomes a profitable transaction to the proprietor?—I am not at all; for I do not know what price they give for it at Smyrna.

5803. Do the Chinese authorities never interfere with the importation of opium?—It is not imported regularly; it is sent into the country from the ships. Every now and then there is a very strong edict issued against the trade; but, like other Chinese edicts, it is nearly powerless. It imposes a little difficulty perhaps for the moment, and enables the Mandarins to extort from the dealers.

5804. Do the Russians import any on the frontier?—No, I should think not; I never heard of their importing any. The Russians made an attempt, some years ago, to come to China by sea, and there came down an order to seize the two ships, and they would have been seized, but that they had luckily sailed. They were under our management; but long before I was in China an order came down to seize the ships, and send up every man in confinement. The emperor did not understand how they could come to China from two opposite quarters. The Chinese said the English must have shewn them the way, or they never could have found it.

5805. It appears, by the return to which reference has already been made of the imports into Canton, that the largest import of cotton was 342,785 pekuls in 1826-27; that the imports in 1825-26 and 1827-28 were about equal, amounting to a little more than 270,000 peculs in each year; will you state any information you may possess as to the imports of cotton in 1828-29 and 1829-30?—I can state the imports in the year 1828-29, as taken from the Canton Register, and I believe that source of information to be correct. The importation in that year, from the 1st of April to the 15th of February, when probably the whole for that season had arrived, was, from Bombay, 112,631 bales; from Bengal, 58,326; from Madras, 13,643; making a total of 184,600 bales, weighing 474,223 peculs, or 63,229,700 pounds weight. The source from whence I get this information does not give the value it yielded in China, but I have taken the average of it at nine taels, which would shew in dollars 5,552,875.

5806. Have there been any considerable variations in the price of raw cotton in China of late years?—It has declined very much of late years.

5807. Has the quality of it been equally good with that of the cotton formerly imported into Canton?—The quality when first I knew Canton was very much superior, or there was a portion of it very superior. That superior description now probably finds its way to Europe.

5808. Did it appear to you that the cotton was inferior generally in its mode of cleaning, to what it was formerly?—The superior kinds were, of course,

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course, better cleaned, they could afford the expense; the inferior kinds not so well cleaned.

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5809. Have the goodness to look at this account, and state whether the import of any smaller articles of account has increased within the last two years?—(*The account No. 29 being shewn to the witness.*)—I think I can hardly speak to that. I have been away four years, and these are minor articles that come in small quantities only.

5810. Do they appear in the price current?—They do.

5811. Can you state from the price current whether there has been any increase in the importation of them?—I should imagine the small articles from the Straits continue much the same: but there has been an increase in some articles; for instance, woollen cloths, cotton goods, and cotton yarn.

5812. Whence have those woollens been imported?—From England; by the Americans almost entirely.

5813. The account refers to the country trade only; have woollens been imported by the country trade?—I am not aware of that.

5814. Have cotton manufactures?—Cotton manufactures, to a certain extent, have come from England by India; but that is a branch of trade which has sprung up principally since I left China.

5815. Do you understand, from the accounts you have received since you left the country, that the importation of cotton manufactures is increasing?—My account is not very positive; but I should apprehend it is increasing.

5816. The inhabitants generally are clothed in cotton, are they not?—Almost entirely, excepting the richer classes.

5817. Are the cottons of England cheaper than their cottons?—Their cottons are very cheap and very strong. I should think, with the present low prices of cotton here, we should compete with them in point of price, but that our cotton articles are not so strong as theirs.

5818. If they could obtain for less money as good an article as they obtain from their own manufacturers, have they any prejudice that would prevent their purchasing it?—I believe none whatever. The duty on the raw material brought into China is so very trifling, and labour is so cheap, that they can manufacture it very cheaply themselves.

5819. The value of the imports into China having increased so much within the last ten years, in what manner have the returns been made?—In bullion, in bars, in dollars; principally broken dollars, and in goods and bills of exchange.

5820. Have the goodness to state the proportion?—To England, silk, piece goods, raw silk, drugs, and nankeens, are the principal articles.

5821. Those you consider as merely effecting a remittance?—Yes, merely.

5822. Have they been to any considerable amount?—I should think the raw

raw silk and nankeens have, as our house have drawn already this season about £120,000 against remittances of that kind, by which I conclude that they are sending considerable remittances.

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5823. What do you apprehend to be the total value of the remittances made direct from China to England in goods, as the returns of the country trade?—I am hardly able to speak to that; I have not made a calculation of that.

5824. In what are the remittances made to India?—In bullion, bars, dollars, and in goods, of which there is a long list, and bills of exchange.

5825. Have you the quantities?—No, I have not; with some exceptions they are very trifling; the principal are sugar, sugar-candy, cassia, and raw silk of a coarse kind to Bombay, and also some of the finer kind sent eventually, I suppose, to England; some nankeens, pepper, glass beads, fruits, and ginger.

5826. Have the goodness to state what proportion of the returns was made in bullion?—The exportation of bullion from China in the year 1827-28, which might possibly include a small amount to London, but I am not aware whether that was the fact, was 5,668,000 dollars.

5827. All silver bullion?—Yes.

5828. Is that larger than the usual export into India from China of late years?—It is rather larger. That of 1828-29 I have not got for the whole year, only up to the 15th of February, when there had been exported 4,622,298 dollars, of which the greater portion was in broken dollars.

5829. Why are they broken?—The Chinese in paying dollars to each other have a practice, with a small iron stamp, of striking a print upon each dollar, as a mark of their own; the consequence is, that as every body who pays a dollar gives it a blow of that kind; they soon become cut into small pieces, so that when exported they are sent to the mint.

5830. Have you known any attempts to carry on a trade in opium on the coast of China?—Yes, there have been several, but I believe not with much success; I believe we were concerned in one or two attempts during my absence in China, which we were not encouraged to pursue.

5831. Have any attempts been made to carry on a trade in cotton or any other articles on the coast of China?—Previously to my arrival in China, I think in 1806 or 1807, the house I afterwards joined sent a cargo of cotton to Amoy, under an engagement of joint participation with a native of Chinchoo residing at Canton, which he gave expectations of being a very profitable concern, under the management at that port of a relative of his own. My recollection is not very distinct as to the particulars of this transaction, having taken place previous to my arrival in China, but the result was, that the Mandarin's exactions in that port were so great, and such difficulties were thrown into the way, that the Chinchoo-man's relation on

18 June 1830. the spot was unable to effect the sale, and the ship returned to Canton with the cargo unsold.

H. Magniac, Esq. 5832. Has the cultivation of cotton been increased in China of late years?—Our information is very vague in regard to the interior of China; but I apprehend it must have increased, from the circumstance of their price having fallen considerably.

5833. Do you expect that the importation of cotton yarn will increase?—Judging from what has taken place since I left China, with the detail of which I am not very well acquainted, however, I think it very likely it will.

5834. Are you of opinion that the possession of a power of making returns direct from China in teas would greatly facilitate the transactions of the Indian trade generally?—There is no doubt it would. The facility of making any returns would be a great advantage to the trade.

5835. If the export of manufactures to China has been profitable to those who have been engaged in it, to what circumstances do you attribute the diminution in the exports of manufactures to China by the Americans, and the circumstance of their carrying on the greatest part of their trade in dollars?—I believe that their trade in woollens has been profitable of late years, since the late fall of price here. I was not aware that their trade in woollens was decreasing.

5836. Do you apprehend they will continue to carry on the trade in dollars?—I think, if the present exchange continues, or should fall even lower, as is probable, that they will go out to China provided with credits or bills on England, and raise their funds on the spot.

5837. Are you of opinion that the trade of the Americans and the country trade of India, derive great advantages from the existence of the East-India Company as a trading company at Canton?—I think the American trade in teas did derive a great advantage from the Company so long as the Company continued to make their advances in the previous season for the teas to be delivered to them the ensuing season; but that system is now discontinued by the Company.

5838. In what way did that give an advantage to the Americans?—The tea merchants, that is, the persons who contract with the Hong merchants to deliver the teas to them and collect them in the country, are generally without capital, and depend therefore upon the Hong merchant's advances to make their purchases for the ensuing season. Those advances were formerly made by the Company many years; but have been discontinued, in consequence of there having been large creditors, on one or two occasions, of a Hong merchant, who suddenly failed, and previously to his delivery of the teas on his contract with them.

5839. Has no other advantage than that you have mentioned been derived to the trading of the Americans and others from the existence of the Company?—I think there is one great advantage, in that the Company's servants, acting

acting as one body, and carrying on an immense trade, are enabled to resist the exactions and extortions thrown in the way of trade by the Chinese government, or the officers under it. 18 June 1830.
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5840. In the event of the Chinese government, or their officers, endeavouring to throw greater difficulties than had hitherto existed in the way of the regular trade, do you imagine the whole trade might be carried on as the opium trade now is, by smuggling?—I can hardly imagine such a state of things.

5841. Do you think it is in the power of the Chinese government to prevent the smuggling of opium?—I think it is out of their power to prevent the smuggling of opium; it is so much an article of necessity by those who have contracted a habit of using it.

5842. Is it not as necessary to the interest of the Chinese that they should sell their teas, as that they should purchase opium?—I think it more necessary to their interests.

5843. Would there not, therefore, under those circumstances, be a strong combination among the people of China in favour of the continuance of the trade, whatever the disposition of the officers of government?—I cannot conceive that the government could put an end to the trade altogether; it would find a vent in some way.

5844. Can any English vessels carry on the trade between South America and Canton?—I believe none at the present time.

5845. Can they do it by law?—I believe they can come from South America to China; I do not think the Company's charter prohibits that.

5846. Do American ships frequently arrive at Canton from South America?—Occasionally.

5847. What are their importations?—Bullion, and occasionally copper.

5848. Has the import of metals into China been profitable?—Very profitable of late in silver uncoined.

5849. Do you allude to gold or silver?—Silver; which comes in large masses from South America, and is sold at a considerable premium in China at present.

5850. Has the importation of other metals, such as tin and iron and lead, been equally profitable?—Those metals were principally, if not altogether, imported by the Company. I am not aware of the state of their profits.

5851. Your house were principally concerned in dealing in opium?—Almost entirely as matter of business; and in goods, as far as remittances were required from China only.

5852. You considered that the most profitable mode of conducting that trade?—By far.

5853. Were the exactions on the part of the Mandarin at the port of Amoy intended to discourage the trade on his part, or merely from a desire

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to get more?—The trade there was entirely disallowed by the government; and I conceive that had the ship's cargo on the occasion alluded to been sold and landed, it would have been illegal on the part of the Mandarin who allowed it. The consequence was, he requested a large present for himself; but he was so exorbitant that the adventure would not afford it, and the ship left in consequence. She sailed at last with the boats following her, and intreating her to return.

5854. If the amount of the exaction had the effect of preventing the trade altogether, would it not become his interest to moderate his demands, for the purpose of at least securing some share to himself?—One should think so; and the negotiation went on for some time, and the captain waited till there appeared to be no prospect of success. The Chinchoo man in Canton, who ultimately paid part of the loss, was quite satisfied with the return of the ship.

5855. Was that the first time that any foreign ship had ever made any attempt?—I believe it was the only time that any English ship had made the attempt with cotton. The Spaniards formerly traded there.

5856. Have you any reason to suppose that, if the Mandarin's exactions had not driven them away, the people were disposed to purchase?—It is at a great distance of time, but I believe they were so. They are always disposed to trade.

5857. What was expected to be the return?—Sycee silver; which means silver in ingots or bars.

5858. Was any difficulty anticipated in obtaining the silver?—None at that time, silver being then more plentiful in China than it is now; and although containing only about two per cent. alloy, I have known it at five per cent. discount.

5859. Is the export of silver allowed?—At that time it was allowed to a certain extent; now it is disallowed entirely.

5860. Notwithstanding that sycee silver is regularly exported?—Yes; much on the same principle that opium is imported.

5861. Are the regulations of the government, calculated to prevent trade with foreigners, habitually set at nought?—Decidedly so; which makes me suppose that, in the case of a total stoppage of the trade, it would find a vent still.

5862. If permission were given by the laws of this country to carry on the trade on the coast of China, do you conceive it could be profitably carried on?—I conceive it would be impossible to carry it on legally.

5863. From what circumstances?—The demands of the Mandarins would be so great and so uncertain, that they could not go there with any advantage. The government prohibit trading in any ports except Canton. They have been more strict of late than formerly.

5864. If

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5864. If the Mandarins thought they could get something by it, would they not be disposed to relax their demands rather than lose the trade?—It might answer in regard to one ship, but in case of its going to any extent it would, I conceive, be known at Pekin, and the Mandarin would be punished. The opium has been a trial of that, and though it has been sold on the coast, yet it is not to any great extent.

5865. Is there any law in China which would prohibit a Chinese junk carrying on that sort of coasting trade on British account, starting from Canton?—There is no law that I am aware of there to prevent a Chinese junk carrying it on, but one would not like to trust the Chinese to do that on British account.

5866. Is there any port of China between Pekin and Canton now, at which there is a considerable domestic trade carried on by the Chinese?—I believe there are several; there are one or two places in Fokien and Kiangnan; those are the two principal tea countries; and foreign trade is carried on to those provinces to a considerable extent.

5867. To what countries do the Chinese carry on trade from those ports?—To Cochin China, to Siam, to the Straits, to Singapore, to the Sooloo Islands, &c.

5868. Are the Chinese inhabiting the eastern islands purchasers of British manufactures, for the purpose of importing into China?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with their habits to say.

5869. From what ports do ships sail from China to Japan?—From several, I believe, but I am not very well informed with regard to that trade now.

5870. In your opinion, would the quality of teas be deteriorated if the trade were opened, and a greater quantity exported?—I think that would be the effect; I think so, from the Company, who contract upon a scale of prices applicable to the quality of the black teas deliverable in Canton, not succeeding in getting as much as they could wish of the better qualities, even at the higher prices, which they endeavour to do by every means in their power; but I believe it is more profitable to the Chinese to produce middling teas at a middling price than teas of the finer qualities at an increased rate.

5871. Do you think there would be any demand in this country for that tea of inferior quality?—I think there is at present a very great demand, but I think the finest qualities of black teas would almost disappear.

5872. As far as regards that part of the transaction, you conceive that would be increased?—I have no doubt it would be increased. Opening the trade must cause an increase; the price here would be so much lower.

5873. Do you look to the exports of teas from China, if there were an open trade, being made with a view to profit, or only as a return for the outward cargo?

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cargo?—I think, after the trade became settled, that the export of teas would become the principal means of remittance.

5874. That they would be reduced in this country as low as they can be?
—Yes; that I think must be the effect.

5875. Do you apprehend that, under those circumstances, the export of British manufactures would be greatly increased?—I have no doubt the exports of British articles would be very considerably increased by an open trade in tea.

5876. Will you state the particular articles of manufacture which you think would find the best market?—I should think that, under such circumstances, woollens, camlets, and cotton piece goods, would gradually and eventually find their way into China in considerable quantities.

5877. Do you think cotton yarn would also be exported?—Yes; it is so, even under present circumstances.

5878. Do you think that effect would be produced by a reduction of price, in consequence of competition?—That would be one effect; another would be, that if persons engaged in that trade were permitted to export teas, they might send them as a means of remittance, the bar to trade at present being a want of returns; and the profit would probably be looked for on the exports to China.

5879. Is there any indisposition on the part of the Chinese to use articles of hardware, knives and forks, and so on, from Europe?—They use no knives and forks; but their own hardware is much cheaper. I believe there is more regard to cheapness in the Chinese than to quality. Their own are inferior to ours; but the price of ours is an obstacle, I conceive.

5880. Can you state the price of any particular article in hardware at Canton; table knives, for instance?—They do not use table knives. I have heard that a razor for shaving the head can be bought for a few candareens. Three cash and three-quarters make a farthing, and ten cash one candareen.

5881. How many candareens buy a razor?—A few; but I cannot say how many. Every time they use them they are obliged to hone them. Under an open trade, I think that hardware might be introduced, perhaps being now made so wonderfully cheap in England; I think that the superior activity and enterprize of individuals over that of a Company pursuing a beaten track, must open new channels, which it is impossible almost to foresee.

5882. Have they any disposition to use ornamental articles; Birmingham manufactures in brass, imitations of gold, and so on?—No, I do not think they have.

5883. Has there been an increased demand for woollens in China of late years?—Since the price has fallen there has been an increased importation. The demand might go to almost any thing if the price did not prevent.

5884. They

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5884. They would be more generally worn?—Yes; they like them very much; their mode of wearing a warm garment is to put two cottons together, and to stuff cotton-wool between, but they would prefer the woollen; the cotton is liable to be wetted directly, the woollens are not so likely.

5885. For what species of articles is the yarn that is exported into China chiefly used?—It is used, I apprehend, for manufacturing cloths; but I am very little acquainted with that, being since my departure.

5886. Do not you think that if they were unable to import yarn, the European manufactured articles would fetch a better price than they do now?—The importation of yarn at present has gone to so small an extent, it cannot be supposed to have affected their manufactures much.

5887. Do you know whether the Americans have often suffered from exactions on the part of the Chinese government?—I am not aware that they have. The exactions do not fall directly upon individuals; they come on the trade generally. The Chinese do not acknowledge us at all; they say, we have nothing to do with you; we allow our people to trade with you, but we know nothing whatever about you; they look to the merchant who becomes security.

5888. In fact, do you think that the Company, by being a Company, have advantages over individual merchants?—I think that, by carrying on their immense trade, they have an influence that in case of the government imposing impositions on the merchants and others, they are enabled to check them in their progress, or to cause them to be done away with; that I have known to occur. Individuals cannot be brought to act as a body, their interests are various and opposite, and each acts for himself.

5889. Would not a British consul supply the place now occupied by the Company in regard to authority in controlling the conduct of individuals?—I think that a person unconnected with the trade cannot have the same power as persons connected with the trade, and having an authority also.

5890. There are American and Dutch consuls residing at Canton, are there not?—Yes, there are.

5891. Do you know what degree of authority they have over the trade of their respective countries?—They have little or no authority; the American consul had no authority, he was a mere commercial officer in fact, I believe, until Mr. Wilcox was appointed. The consul has no power whatever over them, but is merely a sort of authority to register their mercantile proceedings; in fact, that was proved on an occasion some years back, when a sailor belonging to one of their ships was strangled by the government; it was then proved that the consul had no authority over his countrymen.

5892. Has he no police authority in respect to the ships of his own country?—I believe none whatever.

5893. Has

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5893. Has the Dutch consul any?—I am not aware what the power of the Dutch consul may be; when I left China it was a new appointment.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

JOHN CRAWFURD, Esq. is called in, and further examined as follows:

John Crawford,
Esq.

5894. ARE you acquainted with the coasting trade of the Chinese, and can you state the course of that trade, and the amount of tonnage employed in it?—I have paid a great deal of attention to the Chinese trade. I will beg to deliver in a paper containing an account of the native foreign trade of China.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

NATIVE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA.

The principal part of the junk trade is carried on by the four contiguous provinces of Canton, Fokien, Chekiang, and Kiannan. No foreign trade is permitted with the island of Formosa; and I have no means of describing the extent of the traffic which may be conducted between China, Corea, and the Serchew Islands. The following are the countries with which China carries on a trade in junks, viz. Japan, the Philippines, the Sooloo Islands, Celebes, the Moluccas, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Sincapore, Rhio, the east coast of the Malayan Peninsula, Siam, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Tonquin. The ports of China at which this trade are conducted are, Canton, Tchao-tcheou, Nomhong, Hoeit-cheou, Su-heng, Kongmoon, Changhin, and Hainan, in the province of Canton; Amoy and Chinchin, in the province of Fokien; Ning-po and Siang-hai, in the province of Tchekian; and Soutcheon, in the province of Kiannan. The following may be looked upon as an approximation to the number of junks carrying on trade with the different places already enumerated, viz.

	Junks.
Japan, 10 junks, two voyages	20
Philippine Islands	13
Sooloo Islands	4
Celebes	2
Borneo	13
Java	7
Sumatra	10
Sincapore	8
Rhio	1
East coast of Malay Peninsula	6
Siam	69
Cochin China	20
Cambodia	9
Tonquin	20

Total,..... 222

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This statement does not include a great number of small junks belonging to the island of Hainan, which carry on trade with Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, Siam, and Singapore. Those for Siam amount yearly to about fifty, and for the Cochin Chinese dominions to about forty-three; these alone would bring the total number of vessels carrying on a direct trade between China and foreign countries to 307. The trade with Japan is confined to the port of Ningpo in Chekiang, and expressly limited to ten vessels; but as the distance from Nangasaki is a voyage of no more than four days, it is performed twice a year. With the exception of this branch of trade, the foreign intercourse of the two provinces of Chekian and Kiannan, which are famous for the production of raw silk, teas, and nankeens, is confined to the Philippine Islands,* Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Siam; and none of this class of vessels, that I am aware of, have ever found their way to the western parts of the Indian Archipelago. The number of these trading with Siam is twenty-four, all of considerable size; those trading with the Cochin Chinese dominions sixteen, also of considerable size; and those trading with the Philippines, five, making in all, forty-five: of which the average burden does not fall short of 17,000 tons. I am the more particular in describing this branch of the Chinese commerce, as we do not ourselves at present partake of it, and as we possess no direct means of obtaining information in regard to it. All the junks carrying on this trade with Siam are owned in the latter country, and not in China; and I am not sure how far it may not also be so in the other cases. I do not doubt but that a similar commerce will, in the event of a free trade, extend to Singapore, and that through this channel may eventually be obtained the green teas of Kiannan, and the raw silks of Chekian.

Besides the junks now described, there is another numerous class, which may be denominated the colonial shipping of the Chinese. Wherever the Chinese are settled in any numbers, junks of this description are to be found, such as in Java, Sumatra, the Straits of Malacca, &c.; but the largest commerce of this description is conducted from the Cochin Chinese dominions, but especially from Siam, where the number was estimated to me at 200. Several junks of this description from the latter country come annually to Singapore, of which the burthen is not less than from 300 to 400 tons.

The junks which trade between China and the adjacent countries are some of them owned and built in China, but a considerable number also in the latter countries, particularly in Siam and Cochin China. Of those carrying on the Siamese trade, indeed, no less than eighty-one out of the eighty-nine, of considerable size, were represented to me as being built and owned in Siam. The small junks, however, carrying on the trade of Hainan, are all built and owned in China.

The junks, whether colonial or trading direct with China, vary in burden from 2,000 peculs to 15,000, or carry of dead weight from about 120 to 900 tons. Of those of the last size I have only seen three or four, and these were at Siam, and the same which were commonly employed in carrying a mission and tribute yearly from Siam to Canton. Of the whole of the large class of junks, I should think the average burthen would not be overrated at 300 tons each, which would make the total tonnage employed in the native foreign trade of China between 60,000 and 70,000 tons, exclusive of the small junks of Hainan, which, estimated at 150 tons each, would make in all about 80,000 tons.

The

* The provinces once conducted a trade among the Sooloo Islands and Borneo Proper, but owing to the anarchy which has of late years prevailed in these countries, it seems to be at present abandoned.

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The junks built in China are usually constructed of fir and other inferior woods. When they arrive in Cambodia, Siam, and the Malayan Islands, they commonly furnish themselves with masts, rudders, and wooden anchors, of the superior timber of these countries. The junks built in Siam are a superior class of vessels, the planks and upper works being invariably of teak. The cost of ship-building is highest at the port of Amoy in Fokien, and lowest in Siam. At these places, and at Chang-hin, in Canton, the cost of a junk of 8,000 peculs, or 476 tons burthen, was stated to me by several commanders of junks to be as follow:

	Dollars.
At Siam	7,400
Chang-hin	16,000
Amoy	21,000

A junk of the size just named has commonly a crew of 90 hands, consisting of the following officers, besides the crew; a commander, a pilot, an accountant, a captain of the helm, a captain of the anchor, and a captain of the hold. The commander receives no pay, but has the advantage of the cabin accommodation for passengers, reckoned, on the voyage between Canton and Sincapore, worth 150 Spanish dollars. He is also the agent of the owners, and receives a commission commonly of ten per cent. on the profits of such share of the adventure, generally a considerable one, in which they are concerned. The pilot receives for the voyage 200 dollars of wages, and fifty peculs of freight out and home. The helmsman has 15 peculs of freight, and no wages. The captains of the anchor and the hold have nine peculs of freight each; and the seamen seven peculs each. None of these have any wages. The officers and seamen of the colonial junks are differently rewarded. In a Siamese junk, for example, trading between the Siamese capital and Sincapore, of 6,000 peculs burthen, the commander and pilot had each 100 dollars for the voyage, with 12 peculs of freight a-piece. The accountant and helmsman had half of this allowance; and each seaman had 13 dollars, with 5 peculs of freight.

The construction and outfit of a Chinese junk are too well known to require description. They are clumsy and awkward in the extreme. The Chinese are quite unacquainted with navigation, saving the knowledge of the compass; notwithstanding this, as their pilots are expert, as their voyages are short, and as they hardly ever sail except at the height of the monsoons, when a fair and steady seven or eight-knot breeze carries them directly from port to port, the sea-risk is very small. During thirteen years' acquaintance with this branch of the trade, I can recollect hearing of but four shipwrecks; and in all these instances the crews were saved.

The construction and rigging of a Chinese junk may be looked upon as her proper registry, and they are a very effectual one; for the least deviation from them would subject her at once to foreign charges and foreign duties, and to all kinds of suspicion. The colonial junks, which are of a more commodious form and outfit, would, if visiting China, be subjected to the same duties as foreign vessels. Junks built in Siam, or any adjacent country, if constructed and fitted out after the customary model, are admitted to trade to China upon the same terms as those built and owned in the country. If any part of the crew consist of Siamese, Cochinese, or other foreigners, the latter are admitted only at the port of Canton; and if found in any other port of China, would be seized and taken up by the police, exactly in the same manner as if they were Europeans. The native trade of China conducted with foreign countries is not a clandestine commerce, unacknowledged by the Chinese laws, but has in every case at least the express sanction of the viceroy or governor of the province, who, on petition, decides the number of junks that shall be

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allowed to engage in it, and even enumerates the articles which it shall be legal to export and import; at every port also where such a foreign trade is sanctioned, there is a Hong, or body of security merchants, as at Canton; a fact which shews clearly enough that this institution is parcel of the laws or customs of China, and not a peculiar restraint imposed upon the intercourse with Europeans.

The Chinese junks properly constructed pay no measurement duty, and no kumsha, or present; duties, however, are paid upon goods exported and imported, which seem however to differ at the different provinces. They are highest at Amoy, and lowest in the island of Hainan. The Chinese traders of Siam informed me that they carried on the fairest and easiest trade, subject to the fewest restrictions, in the ports of Ningpo and Sianghai, in Chekian, and Souchon in Kiannan. Great dexterity seems everywhere to be exercised by the Chinese in evading the duties. One practice, which is very often followed, will afford a good example of this. The coasting trade of China is nearly free from all duties and other imposts. The merchant takes advantage of this, and intending in reality to proceed to Siam or Cochin China, for example, clears a junk out for the island of Hainan, and thus avoids the payment of duties. When she returns she will lie four or five days off and on at the mouth of the port, until a regular bargain be made with the custom-house officers for the reduction of duties. The threat held out in such cases is to proceed to another port, and thus deprive the public officers of their customary perquisites. I was assured of the frequency of this practice by Chinese merchants of Cochin China, as well as by several commanders of junks at Singapore. From the last-named persons I had another fact of some consequence, as connected with the Chinese trade, viz. that a good many of the junks carrying on trade with foreign ports to the westward of China often proceeded on voyages to the northward in the same season. In this manner they stated that about twenty considerable junks, besides a great many small ones, proceeded annually from Canton to Souchon, one of the capitals of Kiannan, and in wealth and commerce the rival of Canton, where they sold about 200 chests of opium at an advance of 50 per cent. beyond the Canton prices. Another place where the Canton junks, to the number of five or six, repair annually, is Chinchén, in the province of Shanton, within the Gulf of Pechely or Yellow Sea, and as far north as the thirty-seventh degree of latitude.

5895. What appears to be the total amount of tonnage engaged in the foreign trade of China, by the account you have read?—Two hundred and twenty-two junks is the number given there.

5896. What is the amount of tonnage?—I am not able to make an accurate estimate of that. The junks are so very various in their sizes, that it is extremely difficult to make an estimate; they are from a hundred and fifty to a thousand tons. I should take them at sixty or seventy thousand tons, but that is a mere estimate.

5897. In that estimate, do you include the vessels employed in carrying on the coasting trade of China?—No; I have no knowledge of that branch of trade, except in so far as those vessels carrying on the foreign trade of China may be occasionally employed in the coasting trade, and some of them I know are.

5898. Have you ever known the Chinese purchase British manufactures in

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in any of the Eastern islands, for sale in China?—To a very small extent, occasionally.

5899. What articles of manufacture have they purchased?—Generally speaking they do not purchase articles of manufacture. The rough produce of the Eastern islands, commonly speaking, is what they purchase. When they do purchase manufactured articles, they are commonly British.

5900. What particular articles have they purchased?—Broad-cloths, white cottons, and iron. Those may be looked upon as the chief articles; but I beg again to repeat, that the junk traders do not purchase British manufactures to any extent. The Chinese junks that trade with Cochin China and Siam do purchase British manufactures at Singapore to a great extent, but not those trading directly from Singapore and the other Eastern island to China.

5901. If the import of British manufactures into China be very profitable, the restriction only being the difficulty of obtaining returns, can you assign any reason why the Chinese should not import the British manufactures which they can obtain from the Eastern islands?—I imagine the principal difficulty is our not taking from the Chinese that which they have to give, the staple export of China—Tea.

5902. The Chinese carries whatever he has to give, tea and every other article, to the Eastern islands, and carries back his return cargo; can you assign any reason for his not selecting British manufactures as a part of that return cargo?—I suppose that the other articles he is able to get there are found to be more profitable.

5903. What are those articles; are they the produce of the Eastern islands generally?—Barks, dye-woods, esculent birds'-nests or swallows-nests, rattans, pepper, tin, betel-nut or areca, and a very considerable supply, lately, of Indian opium—a very large and increasing supply indeed of that article.

5904. If it is more profitable to the Chinese to import those articles into China, would it not be more profitable for the European merchant to import those into China in preference to British manufactures?—They do import such of these articles as Europeans have a local practical knowledge of into China. There are some, however, of which they can form no judgment, and which therefore they cannot safely trade in.

5905. Is there no article imported into China which produces less profit than British manufacture?—I cannot give any satisfactory information to the Committee upon that point.

5906. When you talk of importing into China, from what place do you understand the articles to be imported?—My reference is at the present moment almost entirely to the island of Singapore; there are many other branches of the trade of the Chinese with which I am familiar, but my evidence at the present moment is chiefly with reference to the island of Singapore,

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Singapore, where I resided three or four years as principal of the settlement, under the direction of the Governor-General of India.

5907. Are there not articles in which a consignment directly from England to China might be profitable, the consignment of which through Singapore may not?—That is sufficiently proved by the extensive importations into China from England by the Americans; for the Americans have the power to carry to China those articles of Straits produce, as they are often called, to China as well as we; but they do not carry them to any considerable extent.

5908. Have not the exports of British manufactures by the Americans decreased of late?—No; I believe they have largely increased.

5909. Has not the greater portion of the American trade been carried on in dollars of late?—A great proportion has always been carried on in dollars, but a considerable proportion of late years in bills drawn on America and this country. It has been carried on also of late in a good measure also through British manufactured goods exported, sometimes from the United States, but more frequently from this country.

5910. Does the country trade of India compete with the Chinese in the foreign trade of China of which you have spoken; is there much trade in country ships between China and Cochin China?—There is no trade whatever in country ships between China and Cochin China. In some of the staple articles of export from the British possessions in India and the Malay Islands to China, the country trade of India competes largely with the native trade of China, as for example, in the article of Indian opium, in the article of Turkey opium, in the article of pepper, of areca nut, and of tin. It does not compete with the Chinese trade in some other articles, as for instance, in barks and dye-woods, in esculent birds'-nests, and other peculiar articles of that nature. The British traders do not, as I have said before, venture to trade in these articles.

5911. Are they too unimportant?—Birds'-nests form a large article.

5912. Can you state why no British manufactures are sent to China by means of the country trade?—There are considerable quantities sent.

5913. Will you state the articles?—They are enumerated in page 44 of the Papers relating to the Trade of India and China, printed by the House of Commons the 4th of June 1829.

5914. Will you state, from that account, the articles of European manufacture?—Iron, lead, steel.

5915. Tin is of Eastern produce?—Yes.

5916. State the value of the iron imported into Canton the last year?—10,470 dollars.

5917. State the value of the lead imported?—The lead is 12,504 dollars.

5918. There appears to be no steel, is there?—None in that year.

5919. Is

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5919. Is there any cutlery?—There is none in the last two years.

5920. Will you state the value of the broad-cloth imported by the country trade?—34,467 Spanish dollars.

5921. Of long ells?—25,575 dollars.

5922. Do you apprehend that the cotton goods sent out are the goods of English or of Indian manufacture?—The Indian are distinguished in the account; those below them are clearly British.

5923. Will you state their amount?—66,487 dollars.

5924. There appear to have been no handkerchiefs since the year 1821-22?—No.

5925. Are there any other articles of British manufacture?—There are articles, not of British manufacture, but articles apparently exported from this country to India, and re-exported again.

5926. What are those?—I should conceive quicksilver to be one of those, and skins; perhaps Prussian blue and smalts, &c.; but those are all unimportant articles. In fact, it is a trade which cannot, from the circuitous course in which it must be pursued, be carried to any great extent; and I have seen quotations from the Canton price-current, stating that exports of British manufactures have been made from Canton to the continent of India, such as metals, from the want of any other mode of remittance.

5927. Has not the price of British manufactures in India been occasionally lower than the original price in England?—I should think that, if such a thing ever happened, it must have been a very rare event indeed. To be able, according to the inquiries I have made in this country, to ascertain the real prime cost of an article, is a matter of extreme difficulty. An article in India may have sold for less than it cost the importer; but the idea of its being sold for a less amount than it cost in this country, is a thing highly improbable. If it took place once, it could hardly take place a second time; or at least it could only take place for a very short period of time, for no man would persevere in a trade that would not pay prime cost.

5928. What additional charge, do you apprehend, would be placed on goods sent out from England to China in consequence of its being necessary to tranship them at Singapore, supposing that to be necessary?—I should think that would not be very considerable.

5929. If it is not considerable, has not the British merchant now the means of sending out British manufactures to China?—If he had the means of making a return, he would; if the British merchant could purchase a supply of the staple article of China as a remittance, he would have ample means of supplying China with British manufactures.

5930. Has not the country trade been principally in the hands of British merchants?—The greater part of it, I should suppose, has; but there are many others besides British merchants, in India, concerned in that trade.

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The Parsees of Bombay are personally engaged in it; and the capital of Hindoo merchants at Calcutta is very largely engaged in it.

5981. As regards British merchants, how do you account for the great increase of it in their hands, if the difficulty be so great in obtaining returns from China?—There is a free exchange in the production of those two countries; they are placed under very different circumstances from those affecting the trade between China and Great Britain.

5982. Is it necessary, for the successful conduct of trade, that it should be direct between two ports, between England and Canton for instance?—I conceive it absolutely necessary, if we expect the Chinese to take our goods, that we should be ready to take theirs in return.

5983. Is not that trade often the most profitable which is the most circuitous?—I should think there is no distinction of that sort; that all trades may be equally profitable, whether circuitous or otherwise.

5984. If a British merchant exported, as he now may, from Singapore, British manufactures to China, and sent a return cargo from China to India, which cargo might then come to England; might not that trade be as profitable as a direct trade between India and China?—The trade likely to be most profitably carried on between two nations must be that subject to the least restriction; that which can be carried on with the fewest limitations. If a trade be forced into a circuitous channel, it must be less advantageous than that which can be carried on directly.

5985. Have the goodness to state whether that trade, though circuitous, may not be still a profitable trade?—It may be a profitable trade; but it may be less profitable than a direct trade would be.

5986. Then can you assign any reason why it is not carried on at all; why British manufactures are not sent to China through Singapore, and returns made through India?—I have already explained that. If this country does not take from the Chinese the articles which the Chinese have to give, we have no right to expect that the Chinese should receive our goods.

5987. What do the Chinese give in return for all the opium and all the cotton sent to China?—They give in return various articles; but I believe chiefly the tea that is furnished to this country.

5988. What are the returns made direct from China to India?—There are a good number of articles sent from China to India. Just now the principal article of export from China to India is bullion.

5989. You have stated what are the returns you have made from China as the proceeds of the cargoes sent from India to Canton; might not returns be equally made in the same articles for the proceeds of British manufactures sent to China through Singapore?—India can take only a limited portion of the exports of China; the principal import, I have shewn, is bullion.

5940. Is there any difficulty in increasing the export of bullion?—That depends upon the state of the trade in the two countries.

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5941. Is

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Esq.

5941. Is not bullion always procurable in China in exchange for any articles which may be exported to that country?—It is always procurable, but it depends on circumstances whether it will make a profitable return to the exporter. I have mentioned a case where it was not, and where the exporter was compelled to have British manufactures in return as an export to India. India requires only a limited supply of bullion, like every other country.

5942. Can you state why the Americans should have conducted four-fifths of their trade generally in dollars, why they should not have exported merchandize to a larger amount?—I think that the Americans have not the means of exporting manufactures to a large amount. They have no manufactures of their own which they could furnish to the Chinese. The quantity of British manufactures exported by them is yearly increasing.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 22° Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM BROWN is called in, and examined as follows :

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—
Mr. W. Brown.

5943. You are a merchant or agent trading to China?—I am a merchant and agent trading to China and America.

5944. Did you ever export to China any goods on your own account?—No ; I have merely acted as agent.

5945. Have you exported goods on your account to other parts of the world?—No, I cannot say that we have ; we are merely agents. If we have done so, it is to a very limited extent indeed.

5946. Can you state the extent of your shipments in successive years to China?—Not from recollection. I have here a statement which I beg to deliver in.

[The witness delivers in the same, and it is read, and is as follows.]

A STATEMENT of MERCHANTIZE shipped by W. & J. BROWN, & Co. of Liverpool, to Canton, from November 1821 to July 1829.

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Mr. W. Brown.

			£.	s.	d.
November 1821	Per ship Columbian ...	883 Packages, value	66,751	19	4
February...1822	— Isabella	874	64,256	18	3
March.....1823	— Tobacco Plant	510	50,834	12	8
August ....1823	— Columbian ...	1,079	76,016	14	2
July.....1824	— Isabella	677	53,277	2	5
February...1825	— New Jersey...	831	52,422	10	7
July.....1825	— Phoenix	688	54,217	2	1
November 1825	— Juniata	684	47,505	19	3
September 1826	— Isabella	552	48,471	7	11
May.....1827	— Woodrop Simms	664	59,808	2	9
October....1827	— Globe	943	65,966	19	4
May.....1828	— Isabella	816	60,999	16	9
April.....1829	— Tobacco Plant	666	55,909	4	3
July.....1829	— Isabella	626	48,818	15	6
Total amount.....£			805,257	5	3

N.B.—The above includes some specie, the amount of which cannot be given with accuracy, but it does not, probably, in the whole exceed £10,000. With this exception, the cargoes consisted of British manufactured goods, and the amount stated is the cost and charges after deducting debentures. In the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons, the Isabella's cargo in May 1828 was, by mistake, omitted.

Liverpool, 18th June 1830.

(Signed) Wm. Brown.

5947. Do the amounts there stated vary from the declared values of the shipments in the Custom-house books?—I rather think they do.

5948. To what extent?—I am not able to state exactly; probably one-third less.

5949. Where no duty is paid on the export of goods, do those engaged in the export of them, in declaring the value of them, adhere as nearly as they can to the real value?—We are very careless about it. When we have no documents to fix it, we assume a value, where there is no export duty.

5950. Do you usually assume a value higher or lower than the real value?—We frequently cannot tell what the value is; we say so much per package;

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sometimes

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sometimes higher, sometimes lower; but I believe with respect to those goods, the value assumed in all cases was lower than the real value.

5951. Do you know whether that was done for any purpose?—The gentleman, who was a partner in the house owning this property, was willing to keep the business as much to himself as he could, and I do not believe he returns to us the real value or the real prices; but from the prices he transmitted to us our entries were made at the Custom-house.

5952. Then was your duty confined to entering the goods?—Entering them and paying for them.

5953. What sum did you receive?—Two shillings and sixpence a package for shipping, and one per cent. for commission.

5954. How did you estimate your commission, if you were not acquainted with the value?—By bills drawn upon us for the purchase.

5955. Then, though you do not know the value of each article, you know the value of the total shipment for each year?—Yes; the shipment would take place at three or four different entries.

5956. For what ports do the vessels clear out in which you shipped those goods?—Generally for Batavia. I am not sure whether one did not clear out for Canton.

5957. Was that for the purpose of concealing the nature of the traffic?—It was.

5958. Have you any means of ascertaining whether those adventures were profitable?—The first few years they were profitable, and the last four years they were unprofitable; they are beginning again to be profitable.

5959. On what authority do you state that?—There are three branches of my establishment in the United States; through one of them, in Philadelphia, the arrangements for those cargoes were made, and credits lodged by John A. Brown and Company with William and James Brown and Company at Liverpool, for the purchase of those cargoes. We are desired to hold such a sum at the disposal of the gentleman who comes to make the purchases.

5960. Have you any means of ascertaining the out-turn of that adventure?—Only from report. I do not see the returns; but I know it from my partner, who is acquainted with it. I state this from the substance of my partner's correspondence.

5961. Do you know what circumstance at any period diminished the profit on those exports?—About four years ago, when the trade became less profitable than it had been previously (I think that arose from more causes than one), about that period, the East-India Company were beginning to send teas direct from Canton to British America; and I apprehend that prevented those imported by the Americans being sent in there; and about the same period the European powers threw more difficulty in the way of the direct import

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import of teas from America to Europe, and that also abridged the markets of Europe for the consumption of tea; and the trade also, I apprehend, was injured by the Americans being too enterprising; still hoping the business would improve, they continued to trade, probably on a fictitious capital in part, arising from bonding for the duties at long periods.

5962. The total import of tea into the British provinces in North America by the East-India Company not amounting to more in value than £100,000 a year, that circumstance alone would not probably have produced much effect on the American trade?—No, I do not think that that circumstance would alone, but in conjunction with the others it had this effect.

5963. As far as new duties imposed on the import of teas to the Continent of Europe might affect the American trade, they would likewise, if the trade were open, affect the trade of British merchants to the Continent in tea?—Of course they would.

5964. Is that over-trading at an end, in your opinion?—I think it is in some measure; a number of those who were engaged in it at that time have been unfortunante in their affairs, and there is probably less competition.

5965. Have you any knowledge of the expense of navigating American and British ships?—Not of British ships; but I know something of American ships.

5966. Have you any means of comparing the two?—No, I have not.

5967. From your knowledge as a merchant and agent, are you enabled to form an opinion whether, in the event of the China trade being opened to British subjects, they would be enabled to carry on that trade with more advantage than the Americans carry it on now?—I apprehend mercantile capital is much more plentiful in this country than in America; the interest of money is less, and I think the expense of navigation is as little; I think they would be able to carry it on with equal advantage, probably.

5968. Are there not many American merchants engaged in that trade possessed of very large capital?—I do not think there are many possessed of very large capital.

5969. Do you think those who have large capital, Mr. Cushion and others, have traded to more advantage than the persons possessed of small capital?—No doubt they have.

5970. To what circumstances do you attribute the greater profits they may have obtained in the trade?—I think they have been engaged in a different trade from most of the other American merchants; and they have not been obliged, I believe, to borrow money on respondentia, which is the usual method of raising money by those who have not sufficient capital themselves to carry on the China trade.

5971. Will you explain what respondentia is?—It is a loan made by a monied house to a house wishing to borrow, for which they receive a certain interest, say eleven or twelve per cent., for the voyage, the parties lending

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the money having the goods hypothecated to them, and paying the insurance; the sum they receive is without reference to whether the voyage is long or short.

5972. In what way does the possession of a larger capital afford peculiar advantages in the carrying on of the China trade?—It enables the party possessing that capital to choose his own markets in Europe with more convenience; it enables him probably to purchase large quantities of opium, and to let it remain for a market in China, which those possessed of smaller capitals, I apprehend, have not been much in the habit of; they have been more in the trade from the United States direct to England, and from thence to China, and then back.

5973. Do you apprehend the larger the capital the greater the advantage?—Provided it can be used,

5974. Should you think that the East-India Company, having so very great a capital engaged in that trade, could carry it on with more advantage than private merchants?—I do not think that any Company can carry on trade with so much advantage as a private merchant, provided that individual has sufficient capital for his operations.

5975. Still less could you expect that degree of care which is shewn by a private individual in the management of his concerns, from persons managing the great capital of a Company, who, whatever may be the out-turn of that adventure, would neither receive more nor less in the shape of interest and revenue?—That is precisely the view I take of it.

5976. Are you aware whether the woollens shipped on American bottoms for China have been in quality superior or inferior to those shipped by the Company?—I have reason to believe they are quite as good as those shipped by the Company, and bought with as much care.

5977. Are they of the same sorts?—Pretty much the same.

5978. Can you state whether they are obtained by the private merchants at a lower cost than that at which the Company obtain their goods?—I think they are full as low as those bought by the Company, inasmuch as the private traders' payments are more convenient to the seller, and that they are not subject to the delay of inspection, which goods purchased by the East-India Company are.

5979. Are the woollens shipped all of one quality, or nearly so?—No; they vary very much in quality.

5980. Do you know on which quality the highest profit is obtained, whether the highest or the lowest?—No, I do not.

5981. Have any new articles been exported of late years?—I think not to any great extent. I understand they are trying cotton yarns in China, but I am not aware of any thing to any extent having been sent of late but what the Chinese have been in the habit of receiving.

5982. You

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5982. You have not shipped any new articles?—Not that I am aware of.

5983. For what length of time have you been employed in the shipment of British goods to China?—Since 1821.

5984. Have you been engaged in sending to British India?—Occasionally.

5985. In what year was your first shipment to China?—In 1821.

5986. What was the amount?—Sixty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-one pounds; in February 1822, I perceive there is another cargo; in 1823, two cargoes; in 1824, one cargo; and 1825, three cargoes.

5987. The shipments gradually increased to 1825?—Yes.

5988. What was the whole amount of shipment in 1825?—About £150,000.

5989. Did the shipments fall off subsequently?—In 1826 there was but one cargo sent, amounting to £47,000; in 1827 there were two cargoes, amounting to about £120,000; in 1828, one cargo, amounting to £60,000; and in 1829, two cargoes, amounting to about £100,000.

5990. Have you any orders for shipment in the present year?—We have.

5991. To what extent, up to the present time?—About £110,000.

5992. So that the shipments are gradually increasing again since 1828?—Yes.

5993. Can you state with more precision your reasons for believing that the last shipment had been profitable, besides the increased orders you have lately received?—I think it is evident that they are more profitable, from my house having lodged credit for those new operations; and they have also stated to me that they have been more profitable, and that they feel more confidence in going on with the trade.

5994. In what manner do your principals purchase goods for the China market?—One of the partners of the house has always attended and bought the goods in England, and for the payment of which he passes bills upon us.

5995. Do you know under what mark they are disposed of in China?—For some time past, probably from the first, he has been in the habit of putting his name upon them, in order to give them credit and currency with the Chinese.

5996. Is there any imitation of the Company's mark?—Not at all. I think he puts Samuel T. Jones upon them.

5997. Have you information you can depend upon, that that mark is considered sufficient, without any imitation of the Company's mark in addition?—From every information I have I believe that mark obtains them as much credit with the Chinese as the Company's mark. His object was to establish the reputation of the house, by packing none but fair goods under that mark.

5998. Do you know in what manner the East-India Company's goods are purchased for the China market?—I have understood they are all subject to inspection, which creates some delay in the payment, which does not arise with the private trade, and which enables the private trade to make themselves as desirable customers to the sellers of the goods as the Company.

5999. Have

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5999. Have you any means of comparing the manner in which Mr. Jones purchases his goods with that in which the East-India Company purchase their goods?—The principal information I have upon that subject is from Mr. Jones himself, and one or two of the manufacturers of whom he has bought. He has an opportunity of seeing the manner in which the goods are got up for the Company; and I have understood that his goods are fully as well or better bought.

6000. When you speak of the general result of the shipments having been unprofitable, can you state at what period of the voyage they became unprofitable?—The goods out have generally sold well, and for fair profits; but the return cargoes have been unprofitable.

6001. If the trade had been open, and those speculations had been conducted by British merchants, who might have brought back a return cargo to England, do you conceive that such speculations would have been more profitable?—I think they would not have been more profitable than the result of the American speculations. I think they must have sustained a loss by the import of teas. I cannot speak of the competition they would have to meet with; but if a British merchant has to go to China and bring teas to Europe, at present he would probably sustain a loss.

6002. Supposing they were to go to China and bring a return cargo to England, do you think the return voyages would be more or less profitable?—It depends on the number of the return cargoes. If there were but few cargoes brought, it would be profitable; if there was over-trading, that would be, as it has been in other instances of many new trades, unprofitable; Buenos Ayres, for instance—the first of the trade was most ruinous, though it has now become a healthy trade.

6003. Does that observation apply to trade generally?—Yes. It would be profitable so long as over-trading did not take place.

6004. Do you know whether the Dutch supply much of the tea that is now consumed in Europe?—I should think they do, a good deal.

6005. Do not you think that the want of a return cargo, which could be disposed of in the English market, has been one of the great causes of limiting the speculations of the Americans in China?—I am not altogether certain of that. I think that the returns being so unprofitable has imposed one barrier to the extension of the trade; but I am not aware that the Americans were deterred altogether from going there.

6006. Has not the circumstance of the best market in Europe for China produce being shut against them contributed very much to that?—No doubt.

6007. Has not the loss of the trade in tea to Canada had an effect upon their trade?—Undoubtedly, to a certain extent, it has.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr.

Mr. RICHARD MILNE is called in, and examined as follows :

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6008. You have carried on trade with China, have you not?—I have.

6009. Did you reside in this country while you were carrying on this trade?—No. I was born in Manchester, but a long time ago I went to the United States of America to vend British goods. I resided in Philadelphia. I commenced trading to India and China about the year 1799, and continued shipping in various vessels till the year 1811. At the period to which I allude the vessels went on freight; there would be ten to twenty shippers in one vessel, and a great number of vessels.

6010. What freight did you pay; did it vary much during that period?—The period alluded to was that of the war in Europe. Freights were high, I may say forty-five dollars per ton measurement of forty cubic feet; or more correctly, speaking of tea, the Americans allowed ten quarter chests.

6011. Notwithstanding that high freight, was the trade profitable?—It was at the period to which I allude.

6012. Did it increase gradually from the year 1799 to the year 1811?—There was an increase. The market was occasionally overdone; but at that period there were no manufactures in America, and we imported considerable quantities of goods from Calcutta as well as from China; there was a considerable trade to India and China out of Philadelphia.

6013. Was that part of the trade which proceeded from India profitable?—It was. I was concerned in both, and I think I may say that I never lost money during that period.

6014. Which was the most profitable of the two, the Indian or the China trade?—Sometimes one, sometimes the other; but I think the China trade was at that period the more certain.

6015. To whom did you commit the care of your exports to China at Canton?—The vessels by which I shipped, and I believe all the vessels at that period were uniformly accompanied by supercargoes; the establishments in China had not then taken place.

6016. Did the supercargo on board of the ship take charge of the goods belonging to all the different merchants who shipped on board of it?—They did; there were pretty generally two supercargoes on board those vessels, nine times in ten, for the protection of the property in the case of death.

6017. You were at no loss for an agent; you were obliged to commit your goods to the supercargo?—Yes.

6018. How much did you pay him?—Three per cent.

6019. How was that sum calculated?—I believe he opened an account current with us; sometimes he deducted his three per cent. from the amount shipped; but at other times, from the amount of the goods purchased; it is nearly the same thing; deducting it from the amount shipped was a little in his favour, but nearly the same thing in amount.

6020. Of

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6020. Of what did that shipment consist?—Almost always Spanish dollars; occasionally a little ginseng, a root gathered in America, which the Chinese like to take as medicine; but I may say almost always Spanish dollars.

6021. Did the shipments of other adventurers in the same vessel consist likewise of Spanish dollars?—Nine times in ten. The vessels from Philadelphia, which was at that time the most extensive port for the trade with China from the United States, the freight ships were probably, for their tonnage, the richest ships which visited China, having a large number of shippers.

6022. What was the amount of their tonnage?—From 350 to 450, and perhaps, accidentally, as large as 500 tons, carrying 800,000 dollars.

6023. Nothing but dollars?—Very little besides.

6024. Who carried on the trade in merchandize?—The trade with China in merchandize from the United States of America is a much later trade. Some persons resident in Boston pretty extensively; some resident in Philadelphia, whom I knew, pretty extensively; but the greatest part of the trade from the United States of America has been in Spanish dollars.

6025. When did the trade in the export of merchandize from America spring up?—There has been some export of American manufactures, I think not very large, from England, perhaps in the year 1820, or sooner; I cannot be positive. It commenced small, and has kept increasing.

6026. Have the Americans exported to Canton any quantity of the manufactures of continental Europe?—I should not think much. At New York they can make up a cargo of manufactures of Europe generally perhaps as soon as in any part of the world, the variety is so great.

6027. Has that been done?—I do not think it has. So far as comes within my knowledge, the exports of manufactured goods from the United States to China have been the greater part British, I think.

6028. Have the Americans exported latterly any great quantity of opium to China?—I cannot speak to that. I was never engaged in that trade.

6029. What did you import from China besides tea?—Silks, nankeens, and a little cassia; occasionally, perhaps, some other trifling things, not worth enumerating.

6030. Were the silks as profitable as the teas?—Sometimes the teas left a good profit; occasionally the silks would do better. The silks were safe if we held them.

6031. Were the nankeens profitable?—Occasionally; not very, lately; of dull sale.

6032. Your trade in nankeens has almost entirely fallen off, has it not?—Yes. The great variety of pantaloons made in England and other countries has destroyed it.

6033. Does

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6033. Does the trade in silks continue as profitable as it was?—It varies, I think.

6034. Generally speaking, was the safest return in tea?—At the period to which I allude the return in tea was very safe; but of late years very ruinous.

6035. To what years do you refer, when you say of late years?—I think four or five; for the last five years, to speak correctly; I do not pledge myself to one year.

6036. Do you know the reason of that?—The American people are extremely industrious, and have great enterprize. The great facility given by government of the credit for a year on the teas, and equally so the facility with which money is borrowed on respondentia, prevails to a considerable extent.

6037. Will you state what the law is with respect to the payment of duties in America on imports from China?—As regards tea, when the ship arrives we make an entry to land them from the vessel, and put them into bond. The government, if it is a person of respectability, will allow them to be taken into a room in the merchant's own warehouse. The teas are landed, and taken home to this room; and then they affix two locks on the door, the government keeping one key and the merchant the other; those teas may remain any period not exceeding one year; and whenever the merchant wishes to make use of them, he goes and makes another entry, getting some merchant to give a bond with him, and he has another year's credit for the duties. The teas are then delivered to the merchant for sale.

6038. Supposing you landed teas and gave your first bond, and at the end of twelve months took out the teas, should you then give another bond for the payment of duty at the expiration of twelve months from that time?—Yes, precisely so. The first is my own simple bond; the government do not consider themselves as putting me into possession of the property; they take my simple bond for entering in store; but the second bond is countersigned by a merchant, supposed to be of some solidity.

6039. Then you might possibly have credit for two years, minus a single day?—Yes; but I can make no use of the teas for the first eleven months. Until I make my second entry, I do not gain any thing by my teas being in bond.

6040. But the payment of duty might be deferred for two years?—Yes; precisely so.

6041. Could you sell your goods before the expiration of the first year?—Yes. Though the goods are on my premises, the government have one key and I have another; by making the second entry I can get possession of the property at any time; but in point of fact, I have only one year's credit, though the payment is deferred for another year.

6042. You have one year's credit after you have sold the goods?—Yes.

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It might so happen that I had not much credit in the duty on those teas if the market was depressed. I might not gain much time; but, generally speaking, all merchants within the year avail themselves of a favourable period and sell off the whole of their teas; and it is understood in America, that the first shipment enables a person to send out two others, when sold off, together with the benefit of the credit he has derived, if so disposed.

6043. When you take your goods out of bond at the end of eleven months and sell them, the price you receive covers the duty you have afterwards to pay?—It ought to do.

6044. How are you paid, in ready money or by bill?—The trade of America generally, in the large seaports, is for promissory notes. We give six months' credit; in general from four to six, according to our agreement; those notes we can convert into money on some terms to re-ship to China again.

6045. At what rate could you convert that bill into money; can you discount a bill at six months?—Six months, or nine months sometimes. The bankers do not discount paper longer than four months; but bills can be discounted at four, six, and eight months, at six per cent. per annum.

6046. Having by the sale of those goods realized some profit on what you had originally invested in the purchase of the exports sold, and having likewise received an additional price which may be considered as money lent you by the government, you are enabled to purchase another cargo, and so to continue the adventure?—Yes.

6047. Has not the American trade with China been in a great measure supported in that manner?—Not at the period to which I allude; they were then *bond fide* capitalists. There went in one of those freight ships, which were frequently the richest ships visiting China for their tonnage, consignments by ten or twenty shippers: I would ship £2,000 or so upon one of those vessels, and go on as many vessels as I could; being my own underwriter, which increased the profit, I would ship £1,000 or £5,000, according to my ability.

6048. Will you state what were your actual losses by underwriting?—I never lost any thing; they were good vessels. I think I shipped once to Calcutta, in the year 1817 or 1818, in a vessel which had something damaged; but I gained, I did not lose then.

6049. What was the rate of insurance to China at that time?—During the late war it was seven or eight per cent. out and home.

6050. Were you peculiarly fortunate, or was the loss small in general?—They were good ships, and they took care whom they selected for captains; the Captains were persons of good habits, and intelligent.

6051. Was there then very little competition among the insurers?—There are a great many insurance offices.

6052. Is not insurance in general higher in America than in this country?
—I do

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—I do not think it is now; it may be a fraction; in America there is no policy duty; I go to an office and insure £1,000 sterling, and all I have to pay is one dollar for a printed policy.

6053. What is it in this country?—I don't recollect, or not positively.

6054. During the time you were engaged in the trade, did it appear to you that the quality of the tea you imported was deteriorated?—The tea called young hyson, which was in great demand in America, deteriorated or fell off very much in quality.

6055. Was the quantity imported much greater than it had been?—The import certainly increased. I think twenty years ago they told us that young hyson tea, that which was really young hyson, the buds of the first gathering of hyson, I believe, could not exceed 4,000 chests; but the Chinese finding it in great request, and that the Americans would give a fair price for it, they increased it to 20,000.

6056. Have they furnished an inferior tea?—Yes, the quality fell off very much.

6057. Did the quality of black tea deteriorate much?—I never imported much black tea.

6058. Did old teas of a former year obtain a ready sale in America?—No; they declined in value, to speak correctly, five per cent., unless the new teas were very inferior in their quality, and the old ones have been superior; then the difference might not be so great; but if the new teas were of good quality, it would be difficult to sell the old teas.

6059. Even at a loss of five per cent.?—Yes, I think so; I believe I am speaking within bounds, but I cannot pledge myself precisely.

6060. Are you yourself a judge of the quality of teas?—I know a little.

6061. Should you say that the old teas were very inferior to the new, supposing them to be originally of the same quality?—Since I was examined in another place I have been into different shops in London to inform myself. I examined their teas, and talked to them. Some of them I knew. Their ideas appeared to me to be very much the same as ours in America, and that the depreciation in the quality of teas would exceed five per cent. per annum.

6062. In the second year would it fall off more than five per cent.?—I do not mean to speak to that. I should think that the lower-priced teas would fall off from five to seven and a half per cent. in the first year, but that I may be within the mark, I would say five.

6063. Would the higher-priced teas fall off in the same proportion?—I think not.

6064. What induced you to leave off the trade?—It was not profitable, and I was drawing my affairs into a small compass.

6065. What part ceased to be profitable; was it the import of teas, of silks,

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silks, or of bankéens?—Of teas chiefly; the loss was serious on teas latterly.

6066. Was there any profit on the common articles you mention; drugs, and so on?—We used to import cassia to fill up the tonnage in many of those ships. Two tons and one-eighth were allotted for every thousand dollars in value; and, if the teas and silks did not make up the tonnage, they put in other articles of smaller value.

6067. To what year do you refer, when you say the trade became unprofitable to you?—The last time I shipped was in 1820. I did not lose money, but I did not make any. A year or two after that it was better; but I believe since 1824 there has not been much profit on teas. Some persons with superior judgment and management may do better, but taking it as a whole I think the losses have been great.

6068. Have you any information by which you can judge whether the trade is now reviving?—My letters from America, from persons engaged in vending English goods in particular, within the last two months, say, we cannot complain of trade. I am told, indeed I see from the prices current; that teas are very low; but I believe the Americans succeeded better this year in vending English goods in China; in some degree, perhaps, owing to the misunderstanding with the Company.

6069. Were you in America in 1825?—Yes.

6070. Did you at all watch the tea market at that time?—I do not recollect particularly watching it; I know it was very bad.

6071. Was not that a year in which there were larger importations than any other year?—That was during the years 1824, 1825, and 1826, and persons who were then speculative traders, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Smith, and others, have failed. I believe the vending of English goods in China by a person who had some knowledge of the caprice and taste of the people, has been beneficial.

6072. Do you mean English goods taken from America, or English goods carried by Americans from hence?—English goods carried by Americans from hence to China.

6073. Can you state what proportion of tea imported remains in bond for the whole eleven months, and what proportion is taken out immediately?—I think in the course of thirty or forty days after the import nearly the whole is taken out. The greatest part of the China traders make an entry for the benefit of long credit into their own warehouses or government stores, and so soon as that landing is completed they generally make a final entry, get the teas into their own possession, and make a public sale of them, the same as at the India-House, they sell off an entire cargo on the credit of six months; an auctioneer or person who vends those goods is often a person of capital; he will agree to sell the goods, to guarantee the debts, and to cash the bills, at a certain per centage.

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6074. Is it allowed to sell goods in a bonded warehouse, without paying up the duty?—No, it is not; they make an entry and give a bond with security, and then they are delivered; they do not allow them to be sold in bond; if there be an hundred chests, a merchant can enter five or ten, as he wants them, but it was the custom with many traders to make a final entry, and sell the whole off.

6075. What is the amount of duty payable in America on tea?—It is a specific duty, varying according to different qualities; on the common bohea it is twelve cents per pound; on congo and souchong, and on all black teas, it is twenty-five; on hyson skin tea it is twenty-eight; on young hyson and hyson it is forty, and on the fine teas, imperial and gunpowder, I believe fifty cents per pound.

6076. What is the proportion of the duty paid in America to the duty paid in England?—It appears that the duty paid in America on all the teas is about equal to the first cost in China; I believe I may say it is a hundred per cent.; if the tea in China costs 1s. the duty is 1s. in America; I have before stated it at 75 to 100, but I believe it is 100.

6077. What is the amount of duty when paid on the sale price in America?—If hyson skin tea sells for sixty-three cents, the duty which is twenty-eight, is equal to forty-five per cent. On the finer teas the duty may be thirty-three or thirty-five per cent. on the sale price. I speak without calculation, but I believe I am nearly correct.

6078. What is the difference between the cost price in China and the sale price in America of the different sorts of tea?—It has been very bad indeed of late; the loss on many of those teas has been twenty-five per cent. and thirty per cent. I am given to understand now, that the import of tea into America this season will occasion loss; but I only know what others have told me upon that subject.

6079. Should you say that teas bought at New York and Boston in the course of the last autumn were sold at a remunerating price to the importer?—I should think not; persons in Boston and others have made a profit perhaps on the outward voyage on English goods from this country.

6080. To what cause do you attribute this loss thus sustained?—The market has been overstocked with tea; the teas on the Continent of Europe have been exceedingly low. The trade to Canada, as it was termed, has been cut off completely. Coffee is very low in price, and people in America breakfast on coffee.

6081. Did the persons whom you employed to transact your concerns at Canton experience any difficulty in managing them there?—My opinion is, that they did not experience any difficulty whatever; I never heard of any.

6082. Neither from the regulations of the government, nor the dispositions of the people?—I never heard of any difficulty whatever; I believe that

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that if they conduct themselves with propriety they never experience much difficulty.

6083. Do you conceive the absence of difficulty was at all increased by the presence of the East-India Company's establishment there?—No, I do not think it was; I believe that those freight ships from Philadelphia were as well received there as any ships visiting that port; they were the richest ships, decidedly, for their tonnage.

6084. Did your agent at Canton ever represent that there was any difficulty in obtaining an increased quantity of teas, if there was a demand for it?—The young hyson tea left us the best profit. Our instructions were to bring all the good young hyson tea they could procure, but their answer was always that it was not to be had. Of the other qualities of tea, sometimes the price was a little higher; but there was no deficiency in quantity.

6085. Is the young hyson the best?—No; but it is a favourite tea with the Americans; it represents the hyson, and is at a moderate price.

6086. The quality of young hyson fell off you say in one year, did it improve in subsequent years?—I do not think it did.

6087. To what year do you refer when you say it fell off?—I think the last five or six years; the prices current speak to that; the prices being so low.

6088. It has not recovered in quality?—It had not while I was in America, or not generally.

6089. Was there any difficulty in levying the duty on tea, on the principle of rateable duty?—No, I think not. There were some of the parties did not pay; but there was no difficulty as to the adjustment of the duty, that I am aware of. The boxes are marked outside with the different qualities of tea. The boxes are nearly all of the same size; but a box of fine tea weighs much heavier than a coarse one.

6090. Then there could not be a very extensive fraud?—There could not be. A box of fine tea is thirty or forty per cent. heavier than one of coarse tea.

6091. Have you seen the statement delivered in to this Committee, and printed, of the comparative prices of tea at various places on the Continent and in America, and the prices the same teas would fetch at the East-India Company's sales without duty?—I have never seen that, not having been able to procure it.

6092. What other modes of remittance from China to America are there besides tea?—Silks and nankeens.

6093. Is there any mode of remittance by bills?—They often sell bills drawn on London. If the exchange be favourable they carry out credits.

6094. Would the loss by remitting by bills be greater or less than by remitting by tea?—I am not acquainted with the exchange; I suppose one will govern the other very much.

6095. You

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6095. You mentioned that some shipments from America to China had been attended with advantage, in which the exporter had consulted the caprices and taste of the people?—There are persons who are good judges of fancy silks; and the Chinese can imitate any thing while they remain there. One of those rich ships will remain three months. The supercargo will take out patterns of English or French goods, and will have something made as near them as possible. The person who orders those goods will keep the patterns to himself, and if they are rich fancy goods, he is perhaps greatly benefited by them.

6096. Do you not think that the exertions and inquiries of individual merchants would be much more conducive to improvement in such a trade as that than the dealings of a great company?—I have no doubt whatever but that would be the case. But it is my decided opinion, that if you take an experienced man out of a large wholesale warehouse in London or Manchester, accustomed to the sale of goods, and to study the caprice and taste of buyers, such an individual placed in China could give instructions to this country, by which they could imitate a variety of costly goods, at a low price, to please the Chinese. They could imitate a variety of things which the people wanted, and could extend the sales in a two or threefold ratio in a reasonable period.

6097. You conceive that the inquiries of individuals are almost essential to the improvement of such a trade as that?—I think if I took an experienced man out of a large extensive warehouse in London or Manchester, accustomed to the sale of goods, and to study the taste and caprice of the buyers, he would be enabled to communicate highly valuable information to the manufacturers in England; and such persons could extend the trade two or threefold in a few years.

6098. You think that if the export trade of the East-India Company to China has not lately increased, it may be in part owing to the absence of that species of exertion?—I should think it is in part.

6099. Have not the Americans had the means of sending out such a man as you have described for many years past?—Yes.

6100. Have they done so?—I know some of them have not; but I think such a person as I have described would be very valuable if he was in China.

6101. Has such a person ever been sent out there?—There perhaps have been persons sent there who have done it in part; but not such as are to be had in the great warehouses in Cheapside or Manchester.

6102. In the event of opening the trade with China, do you apprehend that the English merchants would have the means of extending that trade beyond those which have been possessed by the Americans?—I think an English manufacturer or merchant would understand the shipment of goods better, as regards a free trade; he would be on the same footing as regards the trade in tea. The Americans have of course the same advantage as the English;

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English; but it is very difficult to enter into competition with a large manufacturing house in this country.

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6103. Do you not think that a manufacturing people would unavoidably enjoy greater advantages of the kind to which you have been just alluding than a nation which was not manufacturing?—Certainly; that is what I mean to say.

6104. Have not the Americans possessed means of exporting manufactures from this country, and of adapting the form and the colour and fashion of those manufactures to the taste which they understood to exist in China?—They certainly have had persons here; but the very limited extent to which the trade has been carried to so immense a population, must shew that it is in its infancy, in my opinion.

6105. Do you think there has been a want of capital in the trade?—No, I do not think that there is a want of capital; but the trade is too limited for so large a market; that is my opinion.

6106. Do you know whether the Americans have attempted to trade with any part of China except Canton?—Not to my knowledge.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, One o'clock.

Die Jovis, 24^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Sir JAMES BRABAZON URMSTON is called in, and examined as follows:

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6107. You were in the Company's service in China?—I was.

6108. What was your situation?—I was there altogether above twenty years; I filled the several stations in the Company's factory, and was president of the factory about five years in the latter part of my residence there.

6109. Do you think the Company purchasing their teas generally by contract, purchase them as advantageously as individuals who purchase them in the open market?—I think so, most certainly; they have the chance of procuring better teas.

6110. Do you conceive that all the best teas are furnished to those merchants

chants who contract with the Company?—Not all of them; a portion of the Company's teas are purchased in the market.

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6111. What proportion of the teas is purchased in the market?—It depends a good deal on the circumstances of the season; sometimes a third, sometimes a fourth, sometimes a fifth, if the contracts fall short, which has been the case frequently. When they have not been able to obtain a sufficient quantity of the contract teas, the investment is made up by purchases in the market.

6112. Have the contractors usually failed in delivering the higher or the lower qualities of teas in the quantity demanded by the Company?—During my residence in China, particularly during my chiefship, there was a great defalcation in the quantity of the green teas: that happened in two or three seasons; we had also some difficulty in obtaining the quantity of green teas which the contract required.

6113. Have you gone into the open market for the purpose of purchasing those green teas, when an insufficient quantity was furnished to the Company by contract?—When the quantity of green tea was not to be had under the contract, there was scarcely any of that tea to be had in the market. I alluded, in my former reply, chiefly to the purchases of black teas: it seldom occurred that when there was a deficiency of green teas there were any of those qualities to be had in the market.

6114. How do the Americans purchase their teas?—There have been instances where they have individually and privately contracted for the teas, but I believe generally they purchase in the market.

6115. Do they not usually purchase a very large quantity of green tea?—The Americans have generally run upon green teas; almost invariably. The proportion of black teas imported into the United States of America has been, I understand, comparatively very small.

6116. In those years in which an insufficient quantity of green teas has been furnished on contract to the Company, and they have not gone into the market to purchase any quantity in consequence of the deficient supply in the market of that quality of tea, how have the Americans supplied themselves?—It has frequently happened, that in the season when the Company could not obtain their quantity of teas, the Americans have also been deficient in their quantity of teas to a certain extent; besides which the Americans have frequently taken that description of green tea which the East-India Company would not, as being unsuited for their investment.

6117. Buying green teas of an inferior quality?—Yes.

6118. Should you say that in general the quality of the American teas has been inferior to that of the Company?—I should say so most distinctly; there must of course be some exceptions to this, in a trade carried on for a long period of years.

6119. Have the teas the Company have purchased in the market been inferior

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6120. Who are the persons who supply the market at Canton with tea?—Different teamen (as they are denominated); teamen who come down the country. They bring the contract teas for the Company, through the Hong merchants, and also their private consignments or investments of tea, to be disposed of to the Company and private individuals. Some of the Hong merchants supply the Americans frequently with such teas.

6121. Do those teamen bring down tea in small quantities?—They sometimes do, but generally in what may be considered large quantities, seldom less than two or three hundred chests, which however is comparatively small certainly.

6122. Are they proprietors of the tea, or agents for the sale of it?—Sometimes they are proprietors and sometimes brokers; but I think, generally speaking, the men who bring the teas down are brokers or agents who bring them from the proprietors in the tea country.

6123. Are they persons of similar character to those with whom the Hong merchants contract for the supply of the East-India Company?—I believe they are of the same character of Chinese, as far as my information goes.

6124. Are they not sometimes the same individuals?—Sometimes it happened so in the course of a period of years.

6125. If a teaman had made a contract he thought not advantageous with any one of the Hong merchants, he would bring his tea into the market, would he not?—If the contract is once entered into between the Hong merchant and the teaman, he is bound to produce it.

6126. If he thought it was not advantageous to enter into the contract proposed to him by the Hong merchant, he would then bring his tea into the open market?—Most assuredly.

6127. So that the only circumstance which would determine him in contracting with the Hong merchant, or bringing his tea into the open market, would be the terms, whatever they might be, which might be offered to him by the Hong merchant?—I should apprehend that they have the chance of a better sale to, and payment from, the Hong merchant than in the market, and certainly so if the teas were intended for the Company's investment.

6128. The teaman, when he brings down his tea, sells through the agency of the Hong merchant, does he not?—Very frequently he may sell to the outside-man, because the teamen do not come within the monopoly of the Hong merchant at Canton; they are, I believe, free agents as far as the disposal of their tea is concerned.

6129. Do the Company usually conduct their business through the agency of

of the richest and most solvent of the Hong merchants, or through that of insolvent merchants?—The business of the East-India Company at Canton has generally been divided among all the Hong merchants. When the poorer or junior merchants have not been able to procure their teas, it has generally been done through the agency of the senior merchants.

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6130. Have they ever by preference dealt through the agency of the inferior and less solvent merchants of the Hong?—That has rarely been the case; it has I believe occasionally; I do not immediately however recollect: when they have had proper security for the obtaining of the teas from that merchant; they have seldom done it unless that person was secured by some of the more opulent merchants.

6131. Have they done it extensively?—No; the reverse.

6132. They would rather avoid doing it?—Yes, assuredly, if there was any risk, especially.

6133. Do you apprehend that open traders at Canton derive any advantage from the circumstance of the Company trading through the agency of the insolvent Hong merchants?—I should think it made very little difference to them.

6134. In what way would it benefit them at all?—I do not think it would at all interfere with them.

6135. Are teas obtained more readily through the insolvent than through the richer merchants?—I should say not; for the teas would be required to be of the same quality as if they were purchased through the richer merchants.

6136. Where the name of an insolvent merchant is used for a transaction in tea, what commission does he receive; does he receive the same as if he were a solvent merchant?—It is done with that view; some remuneration has generally been made to the Hong merchant who thus assisted the insolvent one; whenever the East-India Company deal in that way with the insolvent merchant, it is to give him some assistance to endeavour to relieve him from his difficulties.

6137. So that it is exactly the same thing to them whether they purchase through him or through another; they pay exactly the same commission?—Whenever that has been the case it is so; but it is not a very usual occurrence, as I remarked before.

6138. They would not go out of their way to give the advantage of that remuneration to an insolvent, in order to place him in a situation of great wealth and more respectability?—I conceive, that if a merchant had failed probably more from unfortunate circumstances than misconduct, the Company would endeavour by every means in their power, consistently with their own interest, to assist that Hong merchant, in order to restore him to his former situation.

6139. Do you apprehend that it is necessary that the Company's trade at Canton should be conducted by an establishment so numerous as that which

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is now there?—I conceive it would be quite impossible to conduct the Company's trade with a less establishment than now exists.

6140. Are all the persons on that establishment constantly employed?—Entirely so, during the season of business, which is about six or eight months; and a good deal at other times.

6141. What length of time should you think required, in order to obtain such a knowledge of China and the trade, as to be enabled to conduct the business profitably and well?—I think that it would take some years; the mere buying and selling of teas might be acquired in two or three years; but there are other equally important occupations which require several years' attention and study to make them perfect.

6142. Do you allude to the learning the language?—I allude to the knowledge of the Chinese character, system, and habits, to enable us to negotiate with them in the anxious discussions in which the Company's servants have been involved. I do not think any person could do it successfully, unless after some years of experience and study of the general system of the Chinese at Canton.

6143. Do you apprehend that in that respect the Factory has advantages over any private agent residing at Canton?—Most decidedly, the greatest.

6144. What particular advantages, in your opinion, are derived to the general trade of other merchants, from the circumstance of the East-India Company trading at Canton with their monopoly?—I consider that the East-India Company, by their power and their influence generally, have been able to gain points with the Chinese which have proved frequently beneficial to the other nations trading to China.

6145. Had the East-India Company conducted a trade of the same extent under the same management at Canton, but without a monopoly, do you think they would have been enabled to effect the same objects?—Certainly not, in my opinion.

6146. In what way do you apprehend that the possession of that monopoly has given them greater influence than they would have otherwise possessed?—It is the great combination of the Company's influence, if I may use that expression, which gives them a control over the markets generally at Canton.

6147. Does not that influence depend upon the extent of their dealings conducted by the Select Committee, and not upon the circumstance of their being assisted in their profits by a monopoly?—I should say that, strictly and fairly speaking, the East-India Company's trade is not that close monopoly which has generally been represented. I allude to the very large quantity of British shipping, belonging to individuals or private houses of agency, which annually proceeds from our Indian dominions to China, generally called country ships, quite distinct from the Company's ships from this country. The Company's trade in teas to this country is certainly a monopoly.

6148. Do you apprehend that, in their dealings with the Hong merchants, the

the Company derive a very great advantage from their power over the country ships; their power of stopping the trade?—I certainly conceive that they possess this advantage, that having the authority vested in them over the country ships which trade between India and China, they are enabled to take those measures which would prevent any improper conduct on the part of the country ships, if they were so disposed,

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6149. If their power over the country ships extended no further than to the prevention of improper conduct on the part of the crews of those country ships, do you apprehend that that power would give them any particular advantage, in dealing with the Hong merchants, of preventing exactions and impositions?—Certainly, it gives them a great advantage, I conceive.

6150. What other power have they over the country ships?—They have the power, in fact, of general official control over them, as having the British flag flying; they are always placed by the regulations of the East-India Company, as soon as they arrive in the port of Canton, distinctly under the authority of the East-India Company's representatives in China.

6151. Have they not the power of stopping the trade, and preventing their carrying on the trade with the Hong merchants?—Most unquestionably; it has been done occasionally, but only on important and imperative occasions.

6152. Is not that a most powerful means in their hands of preventing the exactions of the Hong merchants?—Most certainly it is.

6153. Suppose the Company to lose their monopoly, could that power still be exercised by the persons to whom the management of their trade might still be confided?—Yes, I think as regarded the Chinese it might be; because I think their influence, from the magnitude of their trade, would continue, supposing their trade existed to the same extent, with the exception of its not being a monopoly.

6154. This power of stopping the trade of the country ships does not arise out of the great trade of the East-India Company, but out of the law and the act of the Indian government?—Yes; it is an agreement between the government in India and the owners or agents of the country ships, that they shall be subservient to the Company's orders and regulations as soon as they arrive in China.

6155. Supposing there were no East-India Company trading to Canton, would it be possible for the government in India to require to have this bond executed in respect of the country ships, and to give some person at Canton the power of stopping the trade?—I consider that state of things would so completely alter the British trade between India and China, that it is impossible for me to form an opinion upon the subject.

6156. Will you explain more particularly the points which you conceive the East-India Company, by the peculiar advantages of its constitution, has been enabled to carry with the Chinese government?—I think the probity of their dealings, the magnitude of their trade, the confidence which the Chinese have for such a long period of years reposed in every act of the East-India

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India Company there, have given them a very powerful influence with the Chinese over the trade; they have frequently, when exactions have been attempted to be imposed on the trade, averted them by the firmness of their servants in China and general influence with the Chinese; and also in cases of homicide they have induced the Chinese to give up points which would otherwise have been attended with the most vital consequences.

6157. Have the ships of the United States, or the other countries trading to Canton, been subject to exactions of that description which have remained unredressed?—All foreign ships have from time to time been subject to some vexations; and whenever the East-India Company have got theirs removed, the other nations have frequently benefited by the same, when the question bore on the foreign trade generally at the port of Canton.

6158. You conceive no exaction upon the ships of the United States of the other countries has been redressed, except through the intervention of the East-India Company first securing and obtaining a similar redress?—Not at all times; some minor points have, I believe, been occasionally obtained by the Americans and others by their own representations; but the very important ones, which the East-India Company have certainly been the means of obtaining by the firm representations of their servants, could not, I am persuaded, have been gained by the Americans or others at Canton. The East-India Company have generally taken the lead, if it was a case in which their trade as well as others has been concerned.

6159. Do you mean that the East-India Company has interfered professedly on the behalf of other countries, or merely that from having obtained redress for themselves, redress has of course followed in the case of others?—They have never applied for redress for other nations alone, but it has sometimes been considered a measure of equity and justice on the part of the Chinese, that what they gave to the Company they would equally give to the other nations. The Company have never interfered for other nations alone by any chance that I am aware of.

6160. Are you aware of any instance in which a grievance, not common to the East-India Company and to the traders of other nations, has, in consequence of being deprived of the advantage of the East-India Company's representations, remained unredressed?—I do not immediately recollect any case in point, but I believe it has sometimes occurred; I cannot say that I remember any particular case in the course of my long residence there; I might perhaps quote one instance where the friendly feeling of the English was useful to other foreigners. I allude to two Russian ships that visited Canton some years since.

6161. State the circumstances of that case?—Those two Russian vessels went to the port of Canton after a voyage of discovery, for the purpose of taking on board a cargo of China produce for Russia; but as the Russians had never been accustomed to trade in the port of Canton, but to carry on their trade between China and Russia over land from the frontier of China, the Canton government in the first instance refused them cargoes, but soon afterwards

afterwards allowed the ships to load, and made their reference on the subject to the court of Peking; before that reply returned, the Russian ships had sailed by permission of the Canton government. Soon after their departure an edict arrived at Canton from the court of Peking, addressed to the Russian ships, and that edict was presented to the President of the Company's factory, with a request that he would forward the same to Russia, the purport of which edict was forbidding the Russians to trade to Canton. During the stay of the Russian ships at Canton, they received every assistance and attention they required from the British authorities, without, however, the British authorities in any way whatever interfering in the public question between the Chinese government and the Russians. I have little doubt but this attention and assistance on the part of the English towards the Russians had a good effect in inducing the Canton government to allow them to load teas. I should observe, that the Russians were the Emperor's vessels, and not private ships.

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6162. This was, as far as you know, the only instance in which Russian ships came for the purpose of trading to Canton?—The only instance of the kind within my knowledge.

6163. Were the Factory at all surprised that the Canton authorities gave them permission without waiting for the opinion of government?—The Canton government was not, strictly speaking, justified in doing it, but they did it upon their own responsibility, and as we heard nothing about it afterwards, we supposed it was approved by the court of Peking.

6164. Were the British Factory at all surprised at the Canton authorities taking upon themselves to decide this question?—We were somewhat surprised; but the provincial government at the same time took upon themselves considerable responsibility: the Canton government, however, are possessed of extensive powers, whenever they think proper to exercise them.

6165. Do they invariably attend to any instructions they receive from the Peking government?—There are, no doubt, general directions for their guidance, but the officers of the Canton government frequently take upon themselves to act as they see proper; it is in consequence of this that we are so frequently subjected to those exactions and annoyances from the provincial government.

6166. In what way does the influence of the British factory at Canton operate on the Chinese authorities in case of any attempt to establish undue exactions; does it go beyond the power of stopping the trade?—It is, as I have before observed, the general influence of the East-India Company, arising from the importance and magnitude of their trade, which gives the Company that weight.

6167. Is not that to which the Company would be obliged to resort, if the Chinese authorities did not yield to their representation, the stoppage of the trade?—We have frequently ourselves stopped the trade, as well as the Chinese; it was a measure they only formerly resorted to, but of late years

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we have frequently turned the tables upon them, and stopped the trade ourselves, by which means we obtained the point we required.

6168. Supposing there was no such body as the Company, and that the exactions of the Chinese made it unprofitable to trade with them, would not that stop the trade itself?—This would so completely alter the whole face of the intercourse between the English and the Chinese, it is impossible to give an opinion upon it; the removal of the Company's influence would be so new a feature, that I cannot judge of what might be the consequences.

6169. Do you think that it is any advantage to the trade of the country ships that their trade should be liable to be stopped at the discretion of the Supercargoes?—I think it is desirable; individuals must frequently suffer for the public good, in China as in other places; ships belonging to private individuals, when their trade is suspended, no doubt frequently suffer loss, unfortunately for the individuals; but it is for the general good eventually.

6170. Is not the existence of such a power a great obstacle to commerce?—No, I think not; it has never been exercised but in cases of absolute necessity, and where the necessity has been most unequivocally and satisfactorily shewn.

6171. If the owners of country ships did not think there existed this necessity, they would then have to suffer without a cause?—I think, where an authority like that of the East-India Company exists in China, their opinions should unquestionably prevail over those of the private persons connected with the country ships; they are the persons in authority, and are so much the more responsible to the Chinese, consequently their authority should be indisputable over ships carrying the British flag.

6172. Do the Company abstain from purchasing that inferior description of tea which the Americans purchase, either for their own consumption or for other countries?—Yes, they do.

6173. Is not such tea cheaper than the lowest description of teas the Company sell here?—I believe it is; but every thing depends on the real quality.

6174. Do you suppose that which is used in England by the poorer classes as tea, and for which they pay the Company's prices, is really that plant?—Yes, certainly; that imported by the East-India Company.

6175. If, however, in point of fact, a great adulteration of tea takes place in this country by a mixture of other leaves, would not such inferior description of real tea which the Americans purchase be superior in quality to such adulterated mixture?—That I am not prepared to answer; the teas referred to in my former answer I considered as those sold at the Company's sales, and not teas which might be adulterated in this country afterwards.

6176. Supposing the adulteration to take place; if the poorer classes are now ready to buy adulterated tea at the Company's prices of real tea, would they not be equally ready to buy real tea, though of a low quality, if they could

could get it at a lower price?—It is impossible for me to judge of the tastes of the inferior orders of people in this country as regards tea.

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6177. Are there not instructions from the Company never to purchase that inferior sort of tea?—Distinctly; we never purchase that sort of tea which is alluded to in the question; I mean tea of bad quality.

6178. Do the Chinese make any distinction between foreign nations trading to Canton in point of duty?—None whatever; the nominal imperial duties are the same; the duties levied on the articles of import and export are the same in respect of all nations.

6179. In case of any difficulty arising in the American trade, how is the representation of the Americans conveyed to the authorities in Canton?—The Americans have a consul there; he is, generally speaking, a complete cypher—I mean in his public and official capacity; the representations have generally been from the individuals, and they have been managed by the Hong merchants.

6180. You stated that the influence of the East-India Company arose entirely from the extent of their dealings?—In a great measure, and the strict confidence the Chinese place in the Company upon all occasions.

6181. What reason have you to suppose that influence would not be equally powerful, whether that influence was managed by a consul appointed by the King's government, or by the Factory appointed by the East-India Company?—I think that the case would so completely change the whole system of British commerce in China, that I feel a difficulty in answering the question; I do not think it possible that an individual in the capacity of a consul could do this.

6182. Why could not the interests of the British be managed by a consul, or some person under the authority of the King's government?—He might manage the mere interests by representations to government, but he could not manage the commercial transactions.

6183. Would not those representations be of equal weight with the representations made by the servants of the Company?—I should say not, most decidedly.

6184. Will you state your reasons, supposing that that person, whoever he was, was invested with equal authority with that possessed now by the Company's Factory, with respect to the British Factory in the port of Canton, the East-India Company's trade existing, but without a monopoly?—I should consider upon that occasion, that in all embarrassments and all discussions with the Chinese government they would still look to the trade and not to the consul; the Chinese cannot enter into the particular question of the exclusive political charter granted to the Company, they look to the Company's servants and the trade generally; and I feel perfectly satisfied they would treat the consul almost as a cypher, and always refer to the Company's servants and trade, and not to the consul.

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6185. As they do with respect to the consul of the American government?—Precisely in the same way; I do not think a consul would have the slightest weight or influence with the Chinese.

6186. Supposing the trade carried on by the Company at Canton were diminished by the removal of the present monopoly, do you apprehend that the influence of their servants would remain as powerful as it is now?—I think to a very great extent it would; as long as they were known to have a trade there, though not a chartered trade, their influence would prevail to a very considerable extent; nor could the Chinese easily be brought to forget the importance of the Company and their influence, though their trade might be somewhat diminished.

6187. Though they saw that, in point of fact, the Company no longer exercised any authority over the British ships trading there?—Yes, I think they would appeal to the East-India Company there, because of the trade being a tangible object; they would stop the Company's trade as they do now; they would not discuss the matter with the consul; they would stop the trade, beginning with the East-India Company's, no doubt.

6188. Do you not think they would have the same disposition to act with the King's representative as they have with the representative of the Company?—I do not think a consul would have the slightest weight or influence with them.

6189. That they would not pay the same respect to the King's officer as they do to the Company's servants?—They might pay him mere personal respect, as being appointed from the crown of this country.

6190. Did they not, in the case of Admiral Drury, object to treating with him, because he was not the King's representative?—I was not in China during the time of Admiral Drury being there; I was in England.

6191. Do you conceive that the Americans suffer any inconvenience or injury in their commercial concerns from not having an establishment similar to that of the East-India Company?—I do; I think they are liable to a great many commercial inconveniences at Canton, from their want of unanimity amongst themselves, and want of unity like a public body.

6192. What proportion of the American trade is managed at Canton by agents?—I am not able to answer that; the American trade has been conducted by private individuals there, and I am totally ignorant of their arrangements in this respect.

6193. How many commercial agents are there at Canton?—I do not know; I do not exactly recollect. When I left China three years ago, there must have been resident there ten or a dozen American private agents, and eight or ten British private agents. Very many other British agents, however, are passing the whole year in ships to and from India, or they may stop the whole year round, the Company have never, in the slightest degree impeded them; I refer to agents who came round to manage their concerns from our various ports in India, &c.

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6194. Can you state what proportion of the country trade, and the trade of Americans and other merchants, is conducted by supercargoes, and what proportion by agents?—I cannot answer that, not being aware of private arrangements connected with the country ships. Sometimes the private ships are consigned to resident agents in Canton; at other times an agent comes with them, transacts the business, and returns in the ship. But there is no rule at all; it is according to the private arrangements of the parties concerned.

6195. Do you think that the power of stopping the commercial intercourse with the Chinese would be as safely entrusted to the consul, who would himself have an interest in the trade, as it is with the Factors of the East-India Company, who, if they stop for others, must likewise stop their own, and so impose upon themselves a material inconvenience?—I do not think the consul would be of the slightest use to the trade as long (as I have observed before) there is a great combined commercial body trading there.

6196. Must he have influence if he had the power of stopping the trade?—I should imagine his influence would be but trifling.

6197. Do you apprehend that the influence possessed by the East-India Company, and the extent of their dealing, with the confidence their probity has inspired in the Chinese, enable them to obtain their teas at a lower cost than the Americans?—With regard to the price I cannot say; but they are unquestionably enabled to obtain better teas; they have the command of the tea market, and the choice of the market over that of other nations at Canton.

6198. Therefore, in trading at Canton, they have a decided advantage over other nations?—I think they have decidedly so.

6199. Are you of opinion that the East-India Company, without the monopoly, would still, as a chartered company, conduct their trade at Canton to advantage?—Most assuredly they would, as a combined commercial body, provided the trade was conducted on the same principles and in the same manner as it is at the present moment. I am viewing this question as one between the Chinese and the East-India Company, not as between the East-India Company and the private individuals in this country.

6200. Has the export of British manufactures to Canton been upon the whole profitable?—For some years past, I believe, quite the reverse. I refer to the Company's principally.

6201. Is it less profitable now than it used to be?—Less than some few years back, certainly.

6202. Are you aware that the price of British manufactures, especially cottons and woollens, has considerably diminished in the last few years?—Yes, it has; but the price has been diminished also in China.

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6203. Are you aware that the reduction of price in China has not been in proportion to the reduction of price here?—No, it has not.

6204. Notwithstanding that, has the export of woollens become more unprofitable than it used to be?—It has.

6205. To what do you attribute that?—I attribute it to that which perhaps is not generally very well understood in this country; the resources the Chinese possess in their own manufactures of silks and cottons, which answer their purposes at all seasons of the year and for every class of life. And I should add also, that I think, as far as my information enables me to judge, that China, generally speaking, is in a much more impoverished state as a nation than it was even twenty years ago. I go on such general information only as I collected in China. I think these are some causes, added to the markets being overstocked with British manufactures, why such commodities have not gone off so well in China of late years.

6206. If British manufactures are forty-five or fifty per cent. cheaper than they were twenty years ago in England, and there has been a great reduction in freight and charges, how do you account for the export of British manufactures being less profitable than it used to be?—I can only account for it from this, that the Chinese do not require our manufactures as they did formerly.

6207. The measure of their demand is the price they are willing to give, and we know that they now give a price smaller than that they gave before, but not diminished in proportion to the diminution of the price of the British manufactures in England?—I should say that arose from the Chinese not requiring our manufactures so much as they formerly did; I do not think that the price has any thing to do with it as the want of demand.

6208. Have the prices of their own home-made commodities diminished?—No, I fancy not; I believe they are about the same prices, so far as my information enables me to judge, as they formerly were.

6209. Does it come within your knowledge that the Chinese manufacture a larger quantity of goods than they used to do?—Of cotton goods of their own I have understood they do.

6210. Have there been any duties taken off their own manufactures, to your knowledge?—I cannot speak to that point.

6211. Do you know of any instance in which the American consul has had recourse to the influence of the Factory with the Chinese to remove obstructions in the way of Americans carrying on their trade?—I am not aware of any.

6212. Are you aware of any particular instance in which the American consul has himself made representations to the Chinese authorities?—There have been frequent cases where, I understand, the American consul has made representations to the Chinese government, and has sometimes obtained redress, and sometimes he has not.

6213. It

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6213. It appears by the paper No. 11, page 21, of the papers before the Committee, that the price of superfine Spanish striped cloth exported in the season 1813-14 was £26. 7s. 11d.; the sale price of that at Canton in 1814-15, £28. 12s. It appears that the price of the same cloth in 1828-29 was £11. 0s. 2d.; the expected sale price in Canton in 1829-30, £17. Can you explain why the export of that cloth should be less profitable now than it was in the year 1813-14?—I rather suspect, as far as my recollection leads me, that that was an experimental consignment at the time it was made, but which proved unacceptable to the Chinese, and consequently the price became reduced?—I think it was an experimental consignment, but found not to answer.

6214. It appears that the price of long ells in the season 1813-14 was £2. 7s. 2d., and the sale price at Canton in 1814-15, £2. 10s. The price of long ells in 1828-29 was £1. 13s. 11d., and the expected sale price at Canton, £2. 2s. 8d. Does it not appear from that statement, that the export of long ells must be much more profitable now than it was in the year 1813-14?—I can only answer that question in the same way I have done others on the same subject, that I am persuaded there is much less demand for our woollens in the present day at China than there was formerly.

6215. Has any quantity of long ells remained on the hands of the Factory?—Formerly, some years ago, when the Company exported a very large quantity, there was frequently a great quantity remaining in the hands of the Company; but of late years the exportation of long ells has been so reduced they have generally been sold off on their arrival in China.

6216. To what do you attribute the diminution of demand for woollens in China?—I really conceive that it is because the Chinese do not consume our articles as they did in former years, and that the markets have been overstocked.

6217. How do you account for that?—It is very difficult, except that they do not actually require them; they have found their own manufactures answer their purpose as well, with a less cost to themselves.

6218. Are woollen manufactories carried on in China?—No; but they have the cotton and silk, which answer their purpose.

6219. Do not the higher ranks wear woollens?—No; if they wear any of our manufactures, it is camlets.

6220. It appears from the statements read to you from these returns, that in the year 1813-14 the long ells exported from this country produced a rise in China beyond the price paid for them in England of 2s. 10d., and that the long ells exported in 1828-29 were expected to produce a price in China beyond that paid in this country of 8s. 9d.; can you state how, under those circumstances, the export of long ells can be less profitable now than it was in 1813-14?—No; I am not aware of the circumstances.

6221. Has there been any import of goods in competition with ours into the port of Canton of late?—The Americans have imported them.

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6222. In what respect are their articles preferred to ours?—I do not think their articles have been preferred to ours by the Chinese, but from such an additional quantity being thrown into the market, the market has become overstocked.

6223. In the same articles do the Americans undersell us?—Yes; but there is one thing I might probably be allowed to state: the Americans were in the habit at one period, in China, of introducing a quantity of camlets, for which they did not pay the regular duties, but either smuggled them or passed them off as another article, whilst the East-India Company were paying seventeen and eighteen dollars a-piece for articles of the same description, paying their regular duties publicly; this transaction of course gave the Americans every advantage in the disposal of this article.

6224. That would be only a temporary case; where the duties are equally and fairly paid by the Americans and the East-India Company, is the price of the American camlets or the Company's camlets lowest?—They are the same price; I believe they are the same article; they were sent from Liverpool, as I have understood, and had very much the appearance of the Company's bales, they were so ingeniously packed up and marked.

6225. When the Americans state that they have realised a profit on the export of British manufactures to China, do you apprehend that may be attributed to their having smuggled in those articles and avoided the payment of duties?—I think it is to a considerable extent; I doubt very much the Americans having obtained the advantages which have been stated in the public papers; an American of some respectability assured me, before I left China, that so far from the woollen and camlet trade being a profitable one, they were in fact a losing concern.

6226. In what year was that?—In the year 1825 or 1826.

6227. Do the Americans generally do their business at Canton through the Hong merchants, or in what form?—A great deal through the outside merchants.

6228. When a ship drops her anchor, is not security entered into by some one for the good conduct of her crew during her stay on the coast?—Immediately; and she cannot commence her commercial operations till some Hong merchant secures her.

6229. Is there any greater difficulty experienced by the Americans, whose trade is free, in finding such security, than is experienced by the East-India Company's ships?—Most certainly; the Americans have frequently had difficulty in obtaining a security merchant for their ships.

6230. To what do you attribute that difficulty?—The natural aversion which every Chinese has to become responsible for the act of any ship, but above all a private one.

6231. Why should that operate to a greater extent with the Americans than with our ships?—Because we have entered into an agreement; there is an understanding between the Company's representatives and the Hong merchants,

merchants, that the Company's ships shall be secured by the Hong merchants in rotation as they stand upon the list.

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6232. How is that applied to the country ships?—The country ships are secured generally by an arrangement between the agents or the parties belonging to the country ship and any particular Hong merchant through whom they may sell their investment; that is a private arrangement entirely.

6233. Do country ships find greater difficulty in getting security than the Company's ships?—Sometimes they have a difficulty, but not very frequently.

6234. Is there any difficulty at all when a ship is consigned to a private agent?—Not so much if he is an established agent of respectability in Canton, of which there are now several.

6235. The question refers to country British ships; is there a greater difficulty experienced by a British country ship in gaining security than by an American free-trader?—I should say distinctly that the difficulties are less with the country ships, from the circumstance of their being British country ships; for they know that those ships are under the authority of the Company's representatives.

6236. Do the Dutch carry on any considerable trade in Canton?—When I left China there were four or five ships from Holland, of about four or five hundred tons each, I believe.

6237. Do they trade under any chartered company, or are they running ships?—Originally they traded entirely under a chartered Company (the Dutch East-India Company); during the war that trade was annihilated, and the Americans became the carriers of that trade; at the conclusion of the war the Dutch appeared again; there were some private ships, others were sent out by an establishment, a body called in Holland, I believe, the Dutch East-India Company, or the Dutch Company; but I have heard so little about it that I am not prepared to answer the question distinctly, as regards this new Dutch Company; but formerly they traded as a public chartered body for many years.

6238. Supposing the trade of the East-India Company with China became at liberty, do you conceive there would be greater difficulties attending the private trade in finding security for the good behaviour of the crews of the shipping than is now experienced under the present management of their trade?—I should say so distinctly; private individual ships, or private traders, would have very considerable difficulty in obtaining security of merchants for themselves in China.

6239. What is the export generally of the Dutch ships to China?—Dutch camlets has been their principal article of export.

6240. Is their trade an increasing trade, or diminishing?—I have not heard for the last three or four years much about the Dutch China trade.

6241. Are those camlets of a quality superior to those imported by the East-India Company?—The Chinese at one time preferred the Dutch camlets;

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lets; but latterly our manufactures have been so much improved that I believe the Chinese give the preference to our own; at all events they hold them in equal estimation with the Dutch camlets.

6242. What has been the import cargo into China by any other ships?—The Spaniards have very rarely visited China of late. The Portuguese trade is confined strictly to the little colony of Macao, which they have in China. Their trade almost entirely consists of opium, between Bengal and Macao.

6243. Have there been any French ships?—Yes; they brought principally wines, and articles of that description; and returned with an assorted cargo of teas, and silks, and chinaware; a general assorted cargo, in fact.

6244. Did you hear whether the import of wines was profitable?—The wines were profitable to a small extent; they were not bought by the Chinese, but by Europeans resident in China. They brought money principally for the purchase of their homeward cargo.

6245. Has there been any Danish or Swedish ship?—A Swedish ship has not been there for many years; a Danish ship arrived, I think, the year I quitted China.

6246. Do you think wine would be a profitable article in the China market?—No; quite the reverse. The wine by the French ship was bought up by the Europeans, being a superior article, for their own drinking; the Chinese do not drink it.

6247. Do you apprehend, if there was a much greater demand for tea, that tea could be furnished by the merchants of equal quality?—In the course of years; but I think for the first few years there would be a considerable difficulty in their getting a sufficient quantity. The demand must become gradual, and regular, and established; then possibly they might increase the growth of their teas; but it is by no means certain.

6248. During the last fifteen or twenty years there has been, has there not, an increased demand to the extent of five or ten millions of pounds, on the part of foreign merchants trading to China, altogether?—There has been an increase, but that has chiefly arisen on the part of Great Britain.

6249. Has that great increase produced a deterioration of quality, or an increase of price?—As far as the Company's investment goes, I do not think that it has made any difference in the quality of their teas.

6250. Has it in the price?—No, I think not.

6251. Then in the course of ten or fifteen years an additional quantity of five or ten millions of pounds of tea having been exported from China, has that been, so far as you know, without any deterioration of quality of that increased quantity of teas which has been furnished to the East-India Company, or any increase of price?—Yes, without any deterioration in quality; but I consider that it has arisen solely from the extreme care, vigilance, exertions, and attention of the East-India Company's servants in China, that the

the additional quantity of teas, so stated to have been imported, was not of a deteriorated quality. 24 June 1890.

6252. Will you turn to the Account number 11, in page 21, to which you have been before referred; what description of cloth is that stated to be superfine Spanish striped cloth?—It was, I believe, sent out to China the year after I quitted Canton; I do not remember to have seen it, but I understood it was an experimental concern; I know the circumstance of its having gone out. Sir J. B. Urmon.

6253. Were not you in Canton in 1813-14?—I was, but it did not come under my eye; I have no recollection of having seen it.

6254. It appears that the quantity of that particular article of cloth has increased between 1813-14 and 1828-29 nearly double; is the demand for that description of cloth increasing in China?—Certainly not; I should say decreasing.

6255. Then how do you account for the fact of a greater quantity having been sent to China in 1828-29 than in 1813-14?—From the anxiety of the East-India Company to forward the exportation of British manufactures as much as in their power was possible.

6256. Do you attribute any part of the decrease of price to the market being overstocked in China?—Almost entirely to the market being overstocked, as I before remarked.

6257. Have you any reason to think that the supply of tea of a superior quality sent from the tea country to the market of Canton, is below the demand that there is for that species of tea?—Most distinctly; the East-India Company have frequently had considerable difficulty in getting the better kind of teas.

6258. You think that there is a species of tea, the supply of which is so limited, that, after the East-India Company have been furnished with the quantity they required, the Americans, if desirous of procuring it, would be unable?—They would be perfectly unable to obtain it.

6259. Do you know, or have you heard, of any instance in which the Americans, being able to procure a superior sort of tea, have chosen an inferior description, as finding it more profitable?—No, I am not; I am not aware of the circumstance.

6260. If, however, it should be the fact that, having an opportunity of making such a choice, they have chosen the inferior description, how would you account for that fact?—It must be from their own commercial arrangements, which I cannot be aware of.

6261. Is not the sort of tea to which your late answer had reference, principally black tea?—Souchong and green teas, and the better sort of congo.

6262. Has not the demand for green tea in the English market considerably
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ably diminished of late years?—I am not aware of the state of the English market.

6263. You were in China in the years 1818-19 and 1819-20?—I was.

6264. It appears in the Account No. 32, that in the year 1818-19 the Company exported from China 21,085,860 lbs. of tea, and in the following year 28,476,231 lbs.; are you aware whether any difficulty was experienced in obtaining that increased supply of more than seven millions of pounds of tea required in one year, and whether the price rose in proportion to that increased demand?—The Company's servants, if I recollect rightly, had considerable difficulty in obtaining that additional supply at that period; with regard to the prices, I have no immediate recollection of them.

6265. It appears that in the year 1825-26 the Company exported 27,821,121 lbs., and in the year 1826-27, 40,182,241 lbs. of tea; are you aware whether any difficulty was experienced in obtaining that increased supply of more than twelve millions of pounds of tea in one year?—They had, if I recollect, very great difficulty in obtaining that additional supply.

6266. Are you aware whether the price was increased in proportion to that increased demand?—I am not.

6267. Does considerable adulteration of tea take place between the time of its leaving the place of its growth and Canton?—No, I believe not; and most certainly not in the Company's teas.

6268. Not any mixture?—No, I believe not; certainly not in the Company's.

6269. Are you able, from your acquaintance with China, to assign any reason why the supply of a superior description of teas is unequal to the demand?—I can only account for it from the deficit in the growth; that there is not sufficient of it; the Chinese perhaps have not sufficiently attended to an extended cultivation of it.

6270. Has there been any additional tax imposed by the Chinese government affecting the growth of tea?—Not to my knowledge.

6271. How long does it take in the culture of the plant, to bring it to that state to produce the teas?—I have understood from intelligent Chinese, that it takes about three years, generally speaking; but I believe it depends a good deal on soil and locality, and other circumstances.

6272. When the demand for tea has been so greatly increased, has the Company been obliged to purchase teas of a very inferior quality?—They have sometimes been compelled, when they could not obtain teas of a better sort, to make up the additional quantity with teas of a lower quality than that termed the contract quality of teas; but they have always been exceedingly cautious and particular in the quality of their teas.

6273. Can you state whether, in that year in which the demand of the Company increased to an extent of more than twelve millions of pounds, the whole of that additional quantity consisted of inferior tea?—I have no immediate

diate recollection of the quality which comprised that additional quantity. I should think part of it must have been of superior quality, but I have no distinct recollection at this moment.

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6274. Do you know whether any part of that increased supply was brought from the remoter parts of the country?—No, certainly not; it was all brought from the usual tea country.

6275. Is the tea which is furnished to the Russian commerce, furnished from the same parts of the Chinese empire with the tea that comes down to Canton?—That is a point we have never been able distinctly to ascertain; but, from all my information, I am led to believe that the teas sent overland to Russia are partly obtained from the tea countries from which we get our supplies, and partly from another province from which we do not get our supplies.

6276. Can you state whether, upon the whole, the cultivation of tea is on the increase or stationary in the provinces?—I cannot.

6277. Have you been able to ascertain what increase of price is necessary to cover the cost of the conveyance of a pound of tea from the most distant province to where it is conveyed to Canton?—No; I am not able to answer that question.

6278. Have you ever heard the original price of tea in any of the provinces in which it is produced?—No, I have not; it passes through so many hands, and there are so many expenses attending it, that it is difficult to arrive at that fact, limited as we are in China in our means and channels of information.

6279. Do you know whether the tea purchased for private consumption in China is purchased at a cheaper rate than that which you pay for it?—I am not exactly aware of that.

6280. How many years does the tea plant continue to thrive?—I have heard it variously stated; some say ten or fifteen years; it is merely a matter of opinion with me, from my general information on the subject.

6281. Can you at all account for that extraordinary increase of twelve millions of pounds, which appears to have taken place in the export of tea from 1825-26 to 1826-27?—I can only account for it from a greater demand for it in this country; I am not aware of the particular circumstances attending it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON, Esquire is called in, and examined as follows:

6282. In what situation were you in Canton?—I was in the situation of a private merchant and general agent. *W. S. Davidson, Esq.*

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6283. Were you in the service of the East-India Company?—No; quite unconnected with the Company.

6284. How long were you there?—Eleven or twelve years.

6285. When did you go there?—I visited China first in the year 1807, and settled there in 1811.

6286. How long did you remain there?—Till 1822.

6287. Whence did you go to China?—From England, by the way of India.

6288. Did you go with a license from the East-India Company?—None whatever. I resided as a Portuguese subject, having obtained from the King of Portugal naturalization, and all the privileges and immunities of a Portuguese subject, while residing at Macao.

6289. Did you go out in a Portuguese ship?—No; I went out in an English ship.

6290. Having first made yourself a Portuguese?—I could not make myself a Portuguese subject in England, but merely possessed that privilege in China. I indemnified the captain of the English ship on which I embarked against the penalty to the East-India Company, provided he should be obliged to pay it.

6291. It was on your arrival at Macao you obtained naturalization?—No; I obtained the credentials of naturalization in London, before going out.

6292. Is that a thing to be purchased?—No; it did not cost me one shilling; it was obtained for me by the English ambassador then at the court of Brazil.

6293. Did you act as merchant for yourself, or as agent for others?—In both capacities.

6294. Did you act extensively as an agent?—Very extensively.

6295. In the conduct of your business, did you derive advantages from the existence of the East-India Company, as a great trading company at Canton?—Certainly; I should have been exceedingly sorry to settle in Canton but for the power of the Company, in some measure at least, to protect British commerce, and, consequently, that commerce which I conducted.

6296. State the particular manner in which you conceive you derived this advantage from the East-India Company's influence in China?—I derived advantages, in common with all other foreigners, I may say, from the circumstance of a powerful body like the East-India Company possessing important influence, in consequence of their great character and extensive trade.

6297. In what manner was that influence exerted so as to benefit you?—It was never actively exerted so as to benefit me, and it would have been quite in vain for me to have asked them to do so; but it was exerted, I conceive,

conceive, in favour of all British trade, and as almost all the trade I managed was British, although I could only reside in the capacity of a foreigner, I derived advantages in common with all others who managed commerce of the same description.

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6298. What was the particular nature of the advantages you derived, and in what manner did you derive them?—I am at a loss to detail in what manner I derived them, although highly sensible of their existence.

6299. Do you consider that the influence of the Company was in any way a counterpoise to the influence of the Hong?—Most decidedly so; a most invaluable one; indeed I consider that had it not been for the existence of the Company in China, the British trade could not have been carried on.

6300. State your reasons for entertaining that opinion?—Because the exactions, the oppression, and injustice of the Chinese government are so great, that I conceive no individual would be fool-hardy enough to hazard sending his property on shore in that country, but from the knowledge that a body like the East-India Company is there to countenance it.

6301. Will you state any specific exaction which the Chinese government attempted to carry into effect, and which the Company successfully resisted?—In the year 1814 the Chinese government attempted to make the Hong monopoly more close than it had ever been before; and had not the East-India Company's authorities resisted upon that occasion, it is impossible to say the lengths to which the Chinese would have gone in taxing both the imports and exports at their own capricious pleasure, and, consequently, in diminishing the profits and increasing the hazard of enterprising individuals.

6302. Do you consider that a diminution of the number of Hong merchants acts as a tax on imports and exports?—It enhances the power of the remaining merchants so much that it is most likely to produce that effect; indeed, I might say, the certain result.

6303. Are not the Hong merchants, in fact, agents for the sale of the tea furnished by the tea merchants in the interior?—Avowedly they are the principals; but they may be, and no doubt are, on many occasions, merely the agents of a tea transaction.

6304. Is it consistent with your own knowledge, whether they are actually to any great extent dealers in tea as their own property, or agents for the sale of teas belonging to others?—I should think in a great many instances merely agents, because in my time the Hong was principally composed of men in bankrupt circumstances, who possessed in reality no property whatever.

6305. In as far as the Hong merchants acted as agents for the sale of the property of others, must it not have been their interest to extend the trade?—Certainly.

6306. Would not any exactions imposed by them have had the effect of diminishing instead of extending the trade?—Certainly; and that is one of the

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the absurdities which is practised every day in China, as well as in this country, and in all countries, indeed.

6307. Have any exactions, within your knowledge, been recently enforced by the Chinese government?—It is now between eight and nine years since I quitted the spot, and of course, from that period, I have only information by the report of others.

6308. Have the goodness to speak to any fact within your own immediate knowledge during the time you were in China?—If I am to speak to grievances, there are many: they attempted to take away our servants; at one time they resisted the valuable right of communicating in the Chinese language, which the East-India Company gained, after a great battle they attempted, I think, to prevent the passage of letters and persons from Macao to Canton; they exacted fees on trifling articles of baggage at Canton, and so forth.

6309. What was the amount of those fees?—Trifling.

6310. Did they, during all the time you were in China, attempt to impose any new duty on the import or export of any article of merchandize?—During my whole experience in China, which was very extensive, I never had occasion to know any thing whatever respecting the details of duty, either on the inward cargo or the outward.

6311. Being an agent at Canton, how did you manage to avoid the obtaining that knowledge?—The Chinese merchant manages all that, and the European need not necessarily know any thing of it. The prices given for the commodity are such as enable the Chinese merchant to pay the duties on the inward cargo; and the prices demanded, or charged, on the outward cargo, also embrace the duty, for which the Chinese lander and shipper is alone responsible.

6312. Were not you called upon to pay duties on the ship?—Always.

6313. Were those increased?—No, I think not; at least I do not recollect any increase of that nature.

6314. Were not those alterations which the Chinese appear to have been desirous of introducing rather of a vexatious than of an onerous character?—Decidedly; but the knowledge which the parties who reside in China acquire of the Chinese government quickly teaches them, that if they do not resist encroachments in the commencement, resistance soon proves to be too late, and they would become intolerable.

6315. In what manner did the Factory of the Company proceed to resist those innovations?—In the year 1814 the chief of the Factory stopped all British trade.

6316. That was on the attempt to diminish the number of servants, was it not?—Yes; that may have formed part of our many grievances.

6317. In what manner did they resist those innovations you have referred to?

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to?—The only stoppages of consequence that I witnessed were those of 1814, and one in 1821, which took place upon the occasion of loss of lives, in the affair of the *Topaze* frigate.

6318. Were those innovations, as to the conveyance of letters, and with regard to servants, and so on, resisted successfully, or submitted to?—They were resisted firmly, vigorously, and successfully, by Mr. Elphinstone, the then chief, and the Committee, and as I conceive, most judiciously so.

6319. In what manner were they resisted?—By a stoppage of the trade till the Chinese gave way.

6320. As regarded the servants, or the landing of luggage, and the letters and so on, was there a stoppage of the trade for those innovations?—I understood the question to allude to the principal grievance, which was in regard to the co-Hong; but when the trade is stopped for a great grievance, the opportunity to tack on others that may exist is too good to let pass unprofitably.

6321. Were all those grievances before 1814?—They had existed before in some measure, perhaps, but it was then they became intolerable, and called forth firm resistance.

6322. Where no other grievances existed than those little ones, is any attempt made to resist them, or are they submitted to?—The East-India Company's servants in China are of course very sorry to stop the trade, because the experiment costs them dear, in the demurrage of vessels and other contingent expenses.

6323. Can you state what proportion of the trade of the Americans or the country trade is conducted through agency, and what proportion is conducted through supercargoes?—Indeed I cannot. I have but a vague idea of the matter, and it is, of course, a proportion constantly fluctuating.

6324. Do the Company usually deal through the medium of bankrupt merchants of the Hong, or the solvent?—All the merchants comprising the Hong have a share or shares of the business; the Company consequently deal with each of them according to the extent of the share or shares they hold respectively.

6325. In your opinion, was any advantage derived by you from the circumstance of trading through bankrupts?—Very great indeed in my time; I often selected bankrupts to deal with, because I very seldom could deal with the merchants on fair terms. Some of them were satisfied with the certain profits on the Company's business, and did not covet other business very much.

6326. State the advantage, in your opinion, from dealing with a bankrupt?—They gave much better prices; and too often, I suspect, they gave higher prices than they could afford to do in the actual state of the markets.

6327. In what manner did you conduct your business when you conducted it through an insolvent?—Precisely as I should have done had I dealt with a solvent

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a solvent merchant; they held the same rank, and conducted their business in the same manner.

6328. Did you contract with them for what you wanted?—Frequently.

6329. Did you trust the money in their hands, they being insolvent?—Constantly, and in very large sums.

6330. Were the other Hong merchants answerable for them?—I do not call to mind an instance in which I ever made a rich Hong merchant responsible for a poor one; but I believe it has been done.

6331. Then, in fact, no person was responsible for those bankrupts, with whom you dealt?—No person whatever; but I knew that they had shares in the Company's business, and I felt assured they would be able to pay me, which they were; I do not think my constituents often lost in consequence of that system.

6332. On what circumstance was that assurance of yours grounded, if those bankrupts had no money?—I think I stated, because I had confidence in their connexion with the East-India Company's business, which was a very profitable one to those merchants.

6333. Did you trust to those persons to make contracts with the teamen, or did you make your own contracts with the teamen, using the names of the bankrupts to cover the transaction?—I do not think I ever made a contract direct with a teaman, or often with an outside merchant, though many of them were respectable; I almost systematically dealt with Hong merchants.

6334. Do you know to what circumstance it was to be attributed that you obtained your teas at a lower price from the insolvent than the solvent merchants?—The insolvent merchants, having no stake, and being exceedingly anxious to deal, were not of course so scrupulous about obtaining profits on what they did as solvent merchants would have been; I attribute it to that cause; besides which, when an insolvent man is in the habit of dealing largely, he wishes to continue to go on, or his insolvency will become apparent; for instance, it was only by obtaining possession of a cargo to-day, he was enabled to pay for one he bought last week or last month; it is like accommodation bills in this country; a man depending upon a number of such out, must put others forth when the current ones became due, if he has no real resources to fall back upon.

6335. Do the American merchants conduct their business usually with the insolvents?—A great deal in my time.

6336. Did you understand that they considered it more profitable to do so?—I have no doubt they discovered it to be more profitable to do so.

6337. Can you state why the Company did not deal much more with the insolvent merchants, if it was more profitable to do so?—That of course would have involved a still greater credit than they gave them; and the servants

servants of the Company, knowing their actual state, would of course not be disposed to do so.

6338. If the servants of the Company were not disposed to do so, why should it be so?—The reason that I and others did this, with security ultimately, in so many cases was, because the insolvent part of the Hong derived great advantages from their sharing the East-India Company's trade. If the East-India Company had found it convenient or safe, to deal equally with them as with the others, very likely they would not have become insolvent, but might have acquired wealth.

6339. If their dealings with the East-India Company were not so advantageous as to make them rich, what advantage did they obtain in their transactions with you?—The East-India Company's dealing might not be such as to make them solvent; but if the East-India Company had not dealt with them at all, neither I nor any person would have done so; and it was only on the ground of their having a share, though a small one, of that trade, that we had confidence to deal with them; it was a bad system, and I have understood it has been declining by degrees since I quitted the country.

6340. Do you mean as to dealing with insolvents?—As to having in the Hong, men notoriously insolvent.

6341. If it was so advantageous to you, how has it been discovered since to be so bad and ruinous a system?—Because by degrees the insolvent Hong merchants, notwithstanding the countenance of private dealers like myself, would, in course of time, become insolvent, and when they did so, were frequently indebted to the East-India Company; consequently that proved what may be termed a ruinous system to them, although individual traders may have escaped; and I stated originally that I seldom lost, or any of my constituents, being as vigilant as possible, as may be naturally supposed we would be.

6342. Did the East-India Company make advances to them?—In the earlier period of my residence in China, largely; in the middle, more cautiously; and latterly they became still more contracted.

6343. Then your engagements with individual merchants have been performed by the advances of the East-India Company?—That is the direct inference, and it has happened so.

6344. So that though it was very advantageous to individual merchants to deal with those insolvent merchants, that advantage was obtained to them through the losses of the East-India Company?—I do not mean to go so far as that; the Company were losers, of course, in proportion as the insolvents were indebted to them at the moment they ceased to do hong business.

6345. State any other advantages which, in your opinion, were derived from the existence of the East-India Company as a great trading Company

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at Canton, otherwise than those you have mentioned—their being a counterpoise to the Hong, and their supporting those bankrupts?—I think I have already stated that, in the past and present state of non-intercourse between the government of this country and that of China, it would be truly hazardous and rash for any British merchant to settle there, and trust his property in the hands of such an unjust and extortionate government, without any protecting power to look up to; and therefore so long as the present state of things exists in China, I conceive the East-India Company is a most valuable protection to all British interests; their fleet visiting China every season, consisting of about twenty ships efficiently equipped, and the influence of their resident servants, both from the excellent character they have generally borne and the large extent of property always under their charge, having enabled the British Factory to bestow great benefits on individual British traders, as well as on other foreign traders, in my opinion.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, that this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, one o'clock.

Die Veneris, 25^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON, Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows:

6346. Do you think the existence of the East-India Company as a trading Company at Canton affords any facility to remittances to India or to Europe?—In my time it did in the greatest degree; I should have been otherwise often at a loss. I was in the habit of resorting to their treasury every season; and when it happened that they declined to draw either on India or on England, my constituents and myself were deeply disappointed.

6347. Does not that difficulty of making remittances on the part of merchants trading to the port of Canton result from the circumstance of their not being permitted to make remittances in tea to this country?—Certainly, in a great degree; having no investment to provide for Europe, we could only resort to the East-India Company for a remittance in bills.

6348. Then the difficulty is created by the monopoly of the East-India Company

Company in the article of tea, and is removed only at their pleasure?—Precisely so, as far as regards remittances to Europe.

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6349. Do you think the position of merchants residing at Canton would be better or worse, if the trade were open, in that matter of remittances?—Much better, if the trade were open and conducted on sound principles.

6350. What engagements did the owners of country ships enter into with the governments of India?—I will speak of Bengal, with which I am far best acquainted. Before sailing from Bengal, the owners of all country ships are obliged to give to the government a bond, in which bond they bind themselves under certain penalties to conform to the orders and restrictions of the East-India Company's representatives in China; and on their arrival in China, the first thing which is done is to receive the instructions of the Committee of Supercargoes with regard to their conduct while in the port.

6351. Do you happen to have a copy of that bond?—It is in my possession, but my papers are not within my reach at this moment. The trade between India and China (that is, the country trade) is a trade of a nature which does not seem to be generally understood in this country, and is merely a trade of sufferance.

6352. Is not all trade a trade of sufferance on the part of the government, which might prevent it if it pleased?—The Legislature of this country has given to the British merchants in India that trade as a trade of sufferance, to be permitted to enjoy it under the regulations of the East-India Company.

6353. The Legislature has given to the East-India Company the power of preventing it?—Yes, I believe so.

6354. Are there any restrictions placed on the exports of British manufactures from India to China?—woollens and cottons?—In my time there were; but they have been partially removed of late years, I have been told.

6355. You cannot state the date of the removal of that restriction?—I think I may say within the last ten or twelve years.

6356. Was that restriction removed on any representation made by any merchants resident in India?—I cannot speak from knowledge; but I have very little doubt it was removed at the time the East-India Company ceased to find it much their interest to enforce it.

6357. Do you happen to know whether advantage has been taken of the removal of that restriction from the import of British manufactures into China from India?—I have heard it stated to be so; I have understood that it has been done profitably.

6358. What particular species of manufactures?—I really cannot enumerate them.

6359. They have not been to any great extent?—No, I think not; principally
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principally by the officers of ships. I should think not to an extent sufficient much to attract the attention of the great houses in India.

6360. What were the chief articles consigned to you for sale in China by your constituents?—The chief articles were cotton and opium; they formed, I think, upwards of nine-tenths of my consignments.

6361. What were your returns?—Besides the Supercargoes' bills on the Indian government, when they drew, I remitted very largely in Sycee silver; the production of China, in tutenag, and many other articles.

6362. Any in dollars?—Sometimes in dollars. We were occasionally compelled to remit in dollars, owing to the difficulty of smuggling the Sycee silver; but never resorted to that mode, I think, when we could obtain the Sycee silver.

6363. The dollar in China is very much beaten and broken, is it not?—Constantly cut and clipped in all directions; it almost ceases to be a dollar when it has circulated in China; there it is weighed as silver; all payments are made by weight.

6364. Is the dollar, in consequence of this beating and breaking, diminished in intrinsic value in China?—The moment the dollar is clipped it cannot be said to diminish in value, because it will be taken afterwards just for its weight in silver, although it be punched and clipped through and through.

6365. When we hear of the exchange at so much a dollar, does that mean the dollar clipped and broken, as it is in China, and so reduced below the value of the good Spanish dollar, or is it in exchange with the quantity of silver which there ought to be in a good dollar?—Yes, precisely so. What is understood in China by a dollar is a piece of silver which contains seven mace two candareens, or seventy-two hundredth parts of one tale, containing a hundred candareens.

6366. Is that the intrinsic value of the dollar as it leaves the Spanish mint?—It has no comparative connection but with other silver; it is paid in China as the weight in silver; and all coins, whether Spanish, or Portuguese, or German, they are shroffed, as it is called, and ascertained to be silver, and are then put together, and the whole mass weighed.

6367. So that the dollar is received by weight, and not by tale?—It is sometimes received by tale; and I will explain this, as it shews the extreme ignorance of the Chinese in matters of that nature. I have had Spanish dollars bearing the head of Charles, the former king of Spain, and I have sold those dollars, and received dollars bearing the head of Ferdinand his successor, coins precisely of the same nature, and I have received from two to five per cent. premium upon the Charles's. When I say the same description of coin, I mean they would be the same in London. The Ferdinands may have been a fraction deteriorated, as they were coined about the time of the revolution: the Chinese found out their mistake, and ceased to carry on

on that operation. The Chinese are a people much attached to old customs ; and as the people in the interior had been long accustomed to the Charles's, they had an objection to any other, the Spanish dollar being sometimes found very desirable in the Chinese provinces, owing to their want of a current coin.

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6368. The Shroffs in Canton, and in every part of China, are very attentive to the quantity of silver contained in coins, are they not?—Yes ; and very expert in their business. I do not remember ever losing one dollar from my Shroffs.

6369. Forgery of money is very rare, is it not?—Very rare ; there can hardly be forgery in a country where no paper money exists ; where all the gold and silver coin is shroffed, and the money taken by weight.

6370. Except in the importation of cotton, which is likewise imported by the Company, the country trade in no respect competes with the trade of the Company at Canton, does it?—In no respect but in cotton and opium.

6371. Is not the prosperity of that country trade essential to the realization of the funds in Canton required for the homeward investment?—It was, constantly in my time ; but it was reciprocal ; I was equally anxious to receive their bills as they were to receive my dollars.

6372. So that the Company are interested in the maintenance and extension of the country trade?—Yes. In former days I have bought largely of the pure sycee silver of China, which we considered to contain ninety-eight parts of silver out of the hundred, and I have paid for it in Spanish dollars, such as I alluded to before, which only contained ninety-two parts of silver in a hundred ; consequently the Chinese, for the facility of having that coin to send into the interior, paid six per cent. premium.

6373. Is the sycee silver to be obtained in any great quantities?—As large quantities as we generally required ; but the difficulty was the shipping it ; there were periods when it could not be smuggled on board. It is in lumps containing ten tales ; not a mis-shaped mass, but cast in a mould, and a very compact mass.

6374. From whence does it come?—From the interior, higher up the country ; it is a dump rather than a bar ; it comes from their native mines.

6375. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of open trade on the price of teas?—The first effect would naturally be to raise the price, because a number of eager speculators would rush into the market ; but there is no reason to suppose that that state of things could continue ; ultimately the tea growers and the tea merchants would of course be satisfied with remunerating prices.

6376. Do you think there would be any difficulty on the part of the Chinese in furnishing a much larger supply, to the extent of many millions of pounds of tea?—I have always understood not ; to any extent that this country could require.

6377. Do

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6377. Do you apprehend that the Americans obtain their teas at as low a price as the Company?—I can entertain no doubt of it, now-a-days.

6378. Do you think they obtain teas of as good quality?—In my time I considered decidedly not, nor did they generally seek to do so, as I always understood.

6379. Are teas as good as the best obtained by the Company to be found in the open market at Canton?—Certain parcels may be so, I believe, but certainly not in large quantities so good as the Company's prime contract teas, in my time.

6380. Is the difference great in the price of the new and the old tea at Canton?—It is very variable; it will depend on many circumstances. If many new teas come down, and there is but a small demand for them, it will tend to keep down the price of the new teas as compared with that of the old; but if when the new teas come down there are many foreign ships come in, and there is a great demand, the new teas, which will be preferred, will surpass in price the old teas greatly.

6381. The new teas are better than the old?—Yes, I should say decidedly so.

6382. Can you at all estimate the deterioration which takes place in green tea in the course of twelve months?—It will in a great measure depend on how it is packed, or whether it is exposed to air or moisture, I apprehend.

6383. Does exposure injure it?—It loses its bloom; it is much injured by being badly kept. The Chinese have a method, which is constantly practised, of making their old teas look new, by submitting them to an operation which is termed firing, and putting a fresh bloom upon them.

6384. How do they do that?—It is generally understood that while they are exposing them over heat, a substance, some say containing a minute portion of Prussian blue or other such deleterious substance, is sprinkled; but I believe that the substance is not so deleterious as has been thought.

6385. But the thing is done?—Yes, I have understood it is done constantly. Teas are freshened, and those who do not understand them are sometimes thus imposed upon.

6386. They are taken in by the sight, not by the taste?—A judge would discriminate.

6387. Does that apply to both sorts?—I think to greens, in particular.

6388. Do you consider that the population of China generally is very much interested in the continuance of the trade with this country?—I cannot speak to it generally; but as to the province of Canton in particular, which is a large, populous, and thriving province, I should say it is most materially interested; and, consequently, I should think that the peace of China is in some degree dependent on the continuance of the trade with foreign countries.

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6389. It is likewise the interest of government to maintain a trade, is it not, the government deriving large duties from it?—Decidedly their real interest.

6390. Is it not likewise the interest of the Hong merchants?—Beyond all doubt.

6391. Under those circumstances, a very strong interest existing on the part of government, of the merchants, and the people of China, and smuggling existing to so great an extent, do you apprehend any circumstances are likely to arise which could put a stop to that trade?—Yes, I do; and I expect it to happen every year.

6392. Will you state what that is?—I believe there is a line, although I cannot pretend to be able to define it, beyond which the Chinese government will not go in adjusting serious differences, and particularly in regard to homicide cases, with any representative of this country who has ever yet resided in China.

6393. Do you mean that the Chinese government would sacrifice the whole trade rather than not succeed in inflicting on foreigners trading there some particular exactions they might desire to enforce?—I mean that they will one day or other so egregiously commit themselves, that their pride, their arrogant self-conceit, and ignorance, will prevent the adjustment of the existing dispute until a negotiation is opened direct between the English government and theirs.

6394. Do you mean that this complete prohibition of trade with foreigners by the Chinese government will take place whether the trade is thrown open or not?—Yes, unavoidably, I think, sooner or later, under the present unwise and undignified system.

6395. Do you imagine it will occur earlier under an open trade, or the present system?—Earlier under an open trade, unquestionably.

6396. You mentioned that you did not think the Americans were desirous of purchasing the superior qualities of tea; what induces them, in your opinion, to prefer an inferior sort of tea?—They often come in quest of teas for different markets, and they will naturally search for a description of tea they can sell at such a price as the parties for whom it is meant are in the habit of giving or may be disposed to give, either on the continent of Europe or in America.

6397. You conceive it was not because they could not procure a superior quality of tea, but that they find the inferior more marketable and more beneficial to them?—There cannot be supposed to exist any difficulty in the Americans obtaining the best article which was to be found in the markets of China. The Chinese will deal with any one who brings money or credit.

6398. Do you think that if the East-India Company was to be deprived of its monopoly in the China market, it would lead to the extinction of the Hong monopoly?—That would not follow, but must depend entirely on the Chinese

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Chinese government. If the Hong monopoly be continued with an open trade to this country, it will always be getting worse and more vexatious. Indeed I see no salvation for an open trade, in the absence of the power and political influence of the East-India Company, without a previous understanding between the two governments.

6399. When you said there was a certain line which the Chinese government was in the habit of adhering to, did you mean to say that they pursued a certain system of government which has never changed within the memory of man, and that you thought was not likely to be changed?—Precisely so; and the line to which I alluded is of course a line that I cannot pretend to define. I do not know where that point is; but I believe that one of these days we shall pass it, and then this country will be compelled to do what it has never yet done, negotiate direct and vigorously, and not through the medium of complimentary embassies; we might send fifty merely complimentary embassies, and they would do no good, but rather mischief, in my opinion.

6400. What is the embassy you would recommend?—Such an one as this great country is wont to send to all other countries excepting China, a manly proposition of amicable, reasonable, and mutually advantageous intercourse.

6401. If they refused to receive the ambassador, what would you propose to be done?—Give up drinking tea, or else enforce the reception of so just an intercourse.

6402. Do you know any thing of any contraband trade being carried on in British ships to other parts?—Country ships have gone on the coast, particularly with opium, but they have seldom met with success.

6403. They have gone to Amoy and parts north of Canton?—Yes, they have; but it is seldom resorted to now, I believe; the opium trade is now so comfortably circumstanced, they do not require any improvement.

6404. Supposing the trade immediately with China to be suspended, do not you think that this country might be supplied with the quantity of tea wanted through Sincapore and other ports?—The thing is possible, but I should think fraught with difficulty.

6405. Do not the Chinese carry on a large trade with the Eastern islands?—Yes; in junks, they carry on a large trade.

6406. Those junks convey tea?—Yes; but whether the Chinese government would consent to see England supplied with tea in that manner, I cannot say, and certainly they would tax it most severely if they did.

6407. Did those persons for whom you were agent while in China send any quantity of British manufactures into China?—No, not in my time, any great quantity.

6408. Are you of opinion that if the monopoly was at an end, there would be an increased demand for British manufactures into that country?—Unquestion-

—Unquestionably an increased demand would grow up; enterprising manufacturers in this country would send manufactures, and lose a great deal of money, probably, in the first instance, but that would create a taste, and I have no doubt that vast quantities of British manufactures would be sent ultimately.

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6409. What sort of manufactures do you think most likely to be sent?—I should think that the articles now sent would be sent on a larger scale; cloths,* metals, cotton goods, and sundries.

6410. Has the quantity that has been imported into that country by the Americans given the Chinese an increased taste for those manufactures?—I really hope so.

6411. Are you aware whether that is so or not?—It is some years since I quitted China; I cannot doubt that it has done so, however, and I have heard often that such is the fact.

6412. Have you made any calculations as to the profit or loss of the trade carried on by the East-India Company with China?—No, I have made no calculations in particular, but I have inspected for many years the accounts of the East-India Company in the most authentic shape.

6413. Have you collected from them the extent of profit which the East-India Company derive from that trade?—On that point I beg to state that I resided some years in China in conducting a large business; I have visited all the East-India Company's presidencies in India; and I can with truth, as I do with pleasure, bear the strongest testimony to the liberal manner in which their government is conducted, which seemed in my time to be universally considered. As a sovereign power, they are all that can be desired for those countries; but in their capacity of merchants, from the most attentive perusal that I can give their accounts, I am sorry to say that I think it has been a complete failure, and that they have reaped from their trade, as a whole, nothing but losses to their own corporation and to this country at large. During my whole residence in China I can with truth say, that I cannot call to mind an instance in which the Company's representatives there have proved recreant in their sacred duties towards British trade in general; not even inattentive, far less inimical to its interests.

6414. With regard to the profit and loss from the manner in which they conduct their trade, do you conceive they do that in a manner equally advantageous to themselves that private individuals would conduct the same trade?—I am sorry to say I do not think so; nor do I think that any public body, constituted as the East-India Company is, can possibly compete with the quiet enterprize and economical management of the intelligent and industrious individual merchants of this country; and this is nothing but the unavoidable result of such a combination of circumstances.

6415. Have you formed an opinion as to the necessity for such an extent of an establishment for the conduct of their commercial affairs as is kept up by the Company in China?—The expense of the Company's establishment

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in China is not great; I believe it to be not much more than what the commission would be payable to myself or other private agents in the conduct of so extensive a business.

6416. You think the Company do not pay more for the conduct of their commercial business in China than private individuals would do?—Very little, I think.

6417. Then what is the difference between their management and that of private individuals?—The expense of all their numerous establishments in all parts of the East. In one of about twenty-five persons, as in Canton, it does not much signify how expensively those few persons may be fed or housed; but the East-India Company have such huge establishments throughout India as must have eaten up all their commercial profits, and they have done so, I fear greatly, besides a good deal of the territorial revenue.

6418. Supposing the whole of their commerce abandoned, except that to China, do you think that trade is as economically managed as a trade of that magnitude in the hands of individuals would be?—I am of opinion that there would not be found to exist a great deal of difference.

6419. Does your answer apply to the establishment at Canton only, or their manner of building ships?—I speak of their establishment at Canton only.

6420. Do you take into your consideration the large ships, the freight they pay, and the sort of goods they export to China?—By no means. I only speak of the sale in China of their imports, and the expense attendant on the providing and loading of the homeward-bound cargoes, and the maintenance of their servants on the spot.

6421. And the purchase of their teas?—Yes; the purchase of teas is included.

6422. You conceive that individuals carrying on such a trade would have advantages over a Company in the circumstance of freight, and the other objects alluded to?—Very great.

6423. Do you see any necessity for the very expensive ships the East-India Company equip for the purpose of conducting their trade?—By no means.

6424. Do you see any advantage resulting from the employment of large ships in preference to small ones?—Not now-a-days; there was a time when it might be of importance to this country, but not in the present improved state of the world.

6425. Is there any advantage, in respect of the duties charged by the Chinese, between large and small ships?—Yes, there has been found to be an advantage *pro tanto*, but that is not sufficient to counterbalance the many disadvantages.

6426. You have stated that if the trade to China were thrown open, British manufactures might be forced into that country; how can that take place

place to any extent in the face of exactions which you say would be the necessary consequence of the removal of the influence of the East-India Company as a chartered body?—I meant to say that that would take place at first on the opening of the trade, in consequence of the reckless disposition of the manufacturers and merchants of this country, when any new market is opened, in sending their goods, without just regard to whether they shall obtain profitable returns or otherwise; but I cannot take upon myself to say when it might stop, in consequence of the exactions of the Chinese, or of losses on the part of the English speculators.

25 June 1830.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

6427. In your opinion, it would not be a permanent increase of trade?—Certainly not, if the trade were to be opened without previous negotiation. The Chinese would commence with small exactions, and they would go on encroaching every year till they had destroyed the trade altogether, and this would necessarily produce the ruin of thousands in this country, I am confident.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. THOMAS MILLS is called in, and examined as follows:

6428. You are a tea-dealer?—I am.

Mr. T. Mills.

6429. You are a wholesale dealer?—I am.

6430. How long have you been engaged in the trade?—Sixteen years.

6431. Have you regularly attended the sales of the East-India Company during that time?—I have.

6432. Did you attend the last sale?—I did.

6433. Did the teas of the Company sell at the last sale generally at prices beyond those of the previous sales?—They did.

6434. Will you state generally the sort of teas upon which the advance has taken place beyond the preceding sale?—The boheas sold at an advance of about six per cent., the low congous five per cent., twankays four per cent., and hysons ten per cent.

6435. Will you state what you consider to be the causes of that advance?—The causes are generally considered to be the reports in circulation respecting the difference existing between the Company's Factory at Canton and the Chinese authorities; also the known inadequacy of the Company's stock of some particular kinds of teas, and the uncertainty of further arrivals.

6436. Will you explain what you mean by the inadequacy of the Company's stock—in what respect you consider it inadequate?—In boheas they have a quantity equal only to about two sales, in hysons they have not two sales, and in souchongs and pekoes they have none.

6437. Did the advance take place more particularly on those teas in which you suppose them to have an inadequate supply?—Yes, to the greatest extent

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Mr. T. Mills.

tent on the boheas and the hysons, of which they have not the same stock as of other teas.

6438. Is not the Company considered to be obliged, under the Act of Parliament, to keep a stock equal to one year's consumption?—I believe it is considered to be the requirement of the charter that they should have a stock equal to the average of four quarters' consumption.

6439. You do not consider, however, that, in all descriptions of teas that are consumed in England, they have a stock equal to the average of four quarters?—Of those four sorts they obviously have not; of souchongs there were none in the last sale, and of another description of tea, the pekoe, they have sold none since June 1828.

6440. By what classes of persons are those teas to which you have alluded consumed?—The boheas are consumed by the lower classes—the manufacturing classes; the souchongs, the pekoes, and hysons, by the higher classes.

6441. You consider the supply to be more deficient in that description of tea which is most extensively consumed by the middling and lower classes?—Yes.

6442. Will you state generally what are the varieties of teas which are in regular demand in England?—Of black teas there are boheas, congous, campois, souchongs, pekoes, padrae, caper, tetson, and ancoy; and of green teas, twankays, hyson skins, hyson, young hyson, and gunpowder.

6443. Do the Company supply the demand in all those descriptions of teas?—The greatest variety is supplied by the private trade; the Company supply only a small quantity in varieties, though they supply the greatest quantity in bulk.

6444. By the private trade you mean to refer to the trade of the officers of the Company?—Yes.

6445. Can you state whether the varieties of tea you have described, and for which a demand exists here beyond the supply of the Company, is to be obtained in other parts of Europe?—I cannot speak to that question generally; I have been abroad twice, and certainly the pekoe tea there is much finer than that imported here.

6446. To what particular part of the Continent do you refer when you say you have found it finer?—To Holland and Germany.

6447. Is the sale price of tea generally in advance upon the upset price at the Company's sales?—In almost all cases; occasionally teas have not fetched the upset price; then they have been withdrawn at that sale, and put up at the succeeding sale without an upset price; but in most cases the selling price is a very considerable advance on the upset price.

6448. Is there a great proportionable difference sometimes between the sale price and the upset price in different sorts of tea?—Very considerable; congou

congou tea put up at 1s. 8d. often fetches 2s. 5d., and other congou tea put up at 2s. 1d. has fetched 3s. 7d.

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Mr. T. Mills.

6449. If the upset price is the cost price, how do you explain that great relative difference between the cost and sale price in different kinds of tea?—I should attribute it to the inadequacy of supply; the selling price would be nearer the upset price if the supply was adequate to the demand.

6450. Do you conceive that the extent of demand for each description of tea can be pretty well presumed from the experience of the Company's sales, so as to enable their agents to provide for it in proportion to the demand?—The Company could declare a greater quantity for sale if they chose; the quantity declared for sale is perfectly optional with them; it is announced about six weeks previous to the sale, and entirely depends upon their own will and pleasure.

6451. Can they have any interest in not meeting the demand in the same proportion for each description of tea which exists, supposing they have been properly provided with stock in China?—It is impossible for me to know the reasons which induce the Company to regulate the supply of tea.

6452. You conceive, however, that they have reasons, independent of the state of their stock as supplied from Canton, for increasing or diminishing the quantity they expose to sale?—Yes.

6453. Do the inspectors of the Company fix any particular mark to the tea?—Yes; the Company not only fix the putting-up price of their teas, but they also fix the quality of their teas, and they sell them by characters. These are the printed characters of the Company by which they declare the quality of their own goods.

(Statement handed in.)

6454. Do not they sell by sample?—Yes; but they attach a character to the tea, declaring their opinion of its quality.

6455. You having taken a sample, form your own opinion of the quality of the tea?—Yes.

6456. Is not a break of tea one of the terms used in the trade?—Yes.

6457. Explain what that term means?—A break of tea consists of a certain number of chests of the same character and quality, varying in quantity from two hundred to a thousand chests.

6458. Do the characters so affixed to each break of tea correspond with the upset price?—No, certainly not; the characters are frequently lower for the 2s. 1d. than for the 1s. 8d. teas.

[The list of the characters delivered in by the witness is read, and is as follows:]

25 June 1830.

Tea declared for sale on Tuesday the 1st June 1830: Prompt the 27th August 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

Bohea 1,400,000
 Congou, campoi, and souchong 5,100,000
 Twankuy and hyson-skin 1,150,000
 Hyson 250,000

Including private trade..... 7,900,000

EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S CHARACTERS OF BLACK TEAS.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	
		<i>lbs.</i>		
				BOHEA, at 1s. 5d. per lb.
				Quarter Chests.
1	579	21	210	Middling good bohea, congou kind of leaf.
2	581	20	210	Ditto ditto.
3	582	21	210	Ditto ditto.
4	583	22	248	Ditto on the congou kind of leaf.
5	584	21	210	Ditto congou kind of leaf.
				Half chests.
6	586	28-29	96	Preferable to ordinary congou
7	587	28-29	85	Ditto ditto as 7 Br. M.S. 1830.
8	588	29-30	910	Ordinary congou, or preferable.
9	596	28-29	200	Preferable to ordinary congou.
10	598	28-29	902	Ditto ditto.
				Large chests.
11	607	47-48	679	Middling good bohea, congou kind of leaf.
12	613	47-48	373	Ditto ditto.
13	617	48-49	258	Ditto ditto.
14	619	47-48	680	Ditto on the congou kind of leaf.
15	626	46-47	260	Ditto congou kind.
16	629	47-49	260	Ditto congou kind of leaf.
17	631	48-49	680	Ditto on the congou kind of leaf.
18	638	47-48	260	Ditto congou kind of leaf.
19	640	49-49	199	Ditto ditto.
20	642	48-49	680	Good middling bohea ditto.
21	649	47-48	270	Ditto ditto, as 15 Br. M.S. 1830.
				In quarter congou chests.
22	651	24	606	Good ordinary tea, even palish mixt leaf, rather burnt.
23	655	24	157	Ditto ditto.. little burnt, as 22 Br. M.S. 1830.
24	656	24	1,200	Preferable to ordinary congou.
25	662	24	619	Ditto ditto.
26	665	24	304	Ditto ditto.
27	667	24	329	Ditto ditto as 19 Br. M.S. 1830.

25 June 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	
		<i>lb.</i>		Congou, at 1s. 8d. per lb.
1	678	23	559	But middling congou, mixt leaf, little new.
2	676	25	618	Ditto mixt leaf kind.
3	679	24	658	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
4	688	24	384	Ditto ditto ditto, as 1 Br. M.S. 1830.
5	685	23	560	Ditto mixt leaf kind, little new.
6	688	23	506	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
7	690	24	605	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
8	694	23-24	416	Ditto rather coarse, new.
9	696	24	598	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
10	699	24	590	Ditto ditto ditto.
11	703	24	523	Ditto coarse and rather old.
12	706	23	400	Ditto rather new.
13	708	24	605	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
14	712	23-24	612	Ditto rather coarse, a little strong.
15	714	24	659	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
16	718	23	436	Ditto coarse, little new.
17	720	24-25	226	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
18	722	24	630	Ditto rather coarse and new.
19	724	24	608	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
20	728	24	543	Ditto little fresh.
21	730	24	622	Ditto rather new, little burnt.
22	734	24	610	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
23	737	24	451	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
24	740	24	550	Ditto rather new.
25	742	24	545	Ditto rather coarse, little new.
26	745	24	606	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
27	749	23	389	Ditto rather coarse, little new, as 22 Br. S.S. 1829.
28	750	24	624	Ditto little coarse.
29	754	23	637	Ditto rather coarse, new.
30	757	24	616	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
31	760	23	634	Ditto rather coarse, little strong.
32	763	23	590	Ditto mixt leaf kind.
33	766	24	299	Ditto rather coarse.
				Congou, at 2s. 1d. per lb.
34	769	24-25	628	But middling congou, mixt blackish leaf.
35	772	25	617	Ditto ditto.
36	776	24	618	Ditto ditto.
37	779	25	617	Ditto mixt blackish tea kind of leaf.
38	783	25	604	Ditto blackish mixt tea kind of leaf.
39	786	23	573	Ditto blackish leaf, rather strong.
40	789	23	605	Ditto ditto ditto.
41	792	24	467	Ditto mixt leaf, as 81 Br. M.S. 1830.
42	795	24	564	Ditto blackish rather mixt leaf, rather strong.
43	798	25	299	Preferable to but middling tea, blackish leaf, pekoe kind.
44	800	24	299	But middling tea or preferable, blackish leaf, little pekoe kind.
45	802	22-23	111	But middling congou, smallish leaf.
46	802	24	616	Ditto blackish on the wiry leaf.
47	806	24	610	Ditto mixt leaf.
48	809	23	597	Ditto on the mixt wiry leaf.
49	812	23	588	Ditto mixt leaf.
50	815	25	615	Ditto mixt blackish tea kind of leaf.

(continued.)

25 June 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	
		<i>lbs.</i>		
51	819	23-24	594	Congou, at 2s. 1d. per lb.— <i>continued.</i>
52	822	23-24	526	But middling congou, mixt blackish leaf.
53	825	25	619	Ditto blackish mixt leaf, little strong.
54	828	24	621	Ditto blackish wiry leaf, little pekoe kind.
55	831	23	594	Ditto mixt blackish leaf, rather fresh.
56	834	24	283	Ditto smallish mixt blackish leaf.
57	836	25	587	But middling congou.
58	839	24	600	Ditto blackish mixt leaf.
59	842	24	600	Ditto mixt leaf.
60	846	22	592	Ditto mixt leaf, rather fresh, little new.
61	849	25	595	Ditto smallish blackish leaf.
62	852	23	599	Ditto mixt blackish tea kind of leaf.
				Ditto mixt leaf.
				One-eighth chests.
63	856	13	616	But middling congou, mixt blackish leaf.
				Quarter chests.
64	858	24	594	But middling congou, mixt blackish leaf kind.
65	861	23-24	611	Ditto mixt blackish leaf.
66	865	25	610	Ditto a little strong.
67	868	23	488	Ditto mixt leaf, as 59 Br. M.S. 1830.
68	871	25	619	Ditto on the mixt blackish leaf kind.
69	874	24	607	Ditto rather coarse.
70	878	24	621	Ditto rather coarse, little strong.
71	881	24	603	Ditto ditto ditto.
72	885	23	612	Ditto smallish mixt leaf.
73	888	24	596	Ditto mixt leaf.
74	891	23	576	Ditto mixt leaf, rather new.
75	894	23-24	583	Ditto mixt leaf, little new.
76	897	24	630	Ditto little new.
77	901	22	448	Ditto as 72 Br. M.S. 1830.
78	904	24	583	Ditto mixt leaf.
79	907	23	579	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
80	910	23	588	Ditto rather coarse, little strong.
81	912	23	623	Ditto rather coarse and rather new.
82	916	24	581	But middling tea, pekoe kind.
				One-eighth chests.
83	919	14	1,042	But middling congou, mixt blackish leaf.
				Quarter chests.
84	924	24	638	But middling congou.
85	927	24	614	Ditto rather coarse.
86	930	24	563	Ditto mixt leaf, rather fresh.
87	933	24	562	Ditto mixt leaf.
88	936	24	588	Ditto rather coarse, little strong.
89	939	25	602	Ditto mixt tea kind of leaf.
90	942	23	621	Ditto blackish wiry leaf.
91	946	24	583	Ditto mixt leaf, little new.
92	949	24	587	Ditto mixt blackish leaf.

(continued.)

25 June 1830

Mr. T. Mills

Break.	Fol.	Tare.	Chests.	
		lbs.		
93	952	24	575	Congou, at 2s. 1d. per lb.— <i>continued</i> .
94	955	24	926	But middling congou, on the mixt blackish leaf.
95	960	24	598	But middling congou.
96	963	25	604	Ditto mixt blackish leaf kind.
97	966	25	201	Ditto mixt blackish tea kind of leaf.
98	967	24	603	Ditto mixt blackish leaf.
99	970	24	1,019	Ditto mixt leaf, little new.
100	976	24	580	Ditto on the mixt blackish leaf.
101	979	23	648	Ditto rather coarse.
102	982	24	100	Ditto on the blackish leaf.
				Ditto on the dull blackish leaf.
				Congou, at 1s. 8d. per lb.
103	983	24	220	But middling tea, rather coarse, campoi kind.
104	984	23	162	Ditto ditto ditto
105	985	23-24	211	Ditto .. rather coarse, little new, campoi kind.
106	986	24	206	Ditto ditto .. campoi kind.
107	987	23-24	163	Ditto .. rather fresh and new, campoi kind.
108	989	24	238	Ditto .. coarse and new, campoi kind.
109	990	23	239	Ditto .. coarse, campoi kind.
110	991	23	239	Ditto .. rather coarse, campoi kind.
111	993	23	236	Ditto ditto .. ditto.
				Campoi, at 2s. 4d. per lb.
1	994	24	206	Preferable to but middling tea, mixt leaf.
2	995	24	157	Preferable to but middling tea.
3	996	24	218	But middling tea.
4	997	22	296	Ditto mixt leaf.
5	999	24	199	But middling tea.
6	1007	23-24	120	Ditto or preferable, as 11 Br. M.S. 1830.
7	1008	23-24	202	But middling tea.
8	1009	24	219	Ditto.
9	1010	23	48	Ditto or preferable, as 5 Br. M.S. 1829.
				At per lb:
..	1000	23-24	96	Preferable to but middling tea.
..	1000	23-24	173	Ditto ditto.
..	1001	24	173	But middling tea, or preferable.
..	1002	24	199	But middling tea.
..	1003	23	218	Ditto or preferable.
..	1005	23	174	Preferable to but middling tea, mixt leaf, fresh.
..	1006	22	222	But middling tea.
..	1010	23-24	78	Ditto or preferable.
..	1011	23	229	But middling to middling tea, mixt leaf, fresh.

(Mr. Mills.) This paper contains a comparison of the character and prices of some of the teas sold at the June sale, shewing that the Company's upset price did not correspond with the Company's characters.

The same is delivered in, and read, and is as follows :

(5 m)

Com-

June 1830.

COMPARISON of the CHARACTERS and PRICES of different BREAKS of CONGOU,
sold at June Sale, 1830.

T. Mills.

CONGOU.

The 69th break } Put up at 2s. 1d. per lb., have the same character as the 28th
 85th break } break and 35th break, put up at 1s. 8d., and are lower in cha-
 100th break } racter than the 31st break, put up at 1s. 8d.

The 74th break } Put up at 2s. 1d. per lb., have the same character as the 1st break,
 75th break } put up at 1s. 8d., and are lower in character than the 6th, 7th,
 91st break } 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th,
 22d, 23d, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d breaks; in all 23
 breaks, which are put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 76th break, put up at 2s. 1d., has a character lower than the 2d, 3d, 4th, 6th,
 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 25th,
 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 32d, and 33d breaks; in all 24 breaks, which
 are put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 79th break } Put up at 2s. 1d. have the same character as the 6th, 9th, 10th,
 81st break } 17th, 19th, 22d, and 26th breaks, put up at 1s. 8d. per lb., and
 are lower in character than the 11th, 14th, 28th, 31st, and 33d; in all
 5 breaks, put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

The 80th break } Put up at 2s. 1d., same character as the 14th and 31st breaks,
 88th break } which are put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.

6459. How do you explain that difference?—The upset price is taken to be a remunerating price, which consists of the cost of the teas in China, and the expence of bringing them home. It appears, therefore, obvious, that the teas put up at 2s. 1d. must have cost the Company more in Canton than the teas put up at 1s. 8d.; but their inspectors here declare that the tea put up at 2s. 1d. is not so good as that put up at 1s. 8d.; there is therefore an obvious difference of opinion between their inspectors in this country and their factory in Canton.

6460. You conceive that the factory of the Company at Canton do not habitually discriminate the sale price of the respective qualities of tea that they send to England?—The declared opinion of their inspectors in this country is obviously at variance with the opinion of the factory at Canton. It is for every person to judge by whom the more correct opinion is formed.

6461. According to your opinion, which is the most correct?—I should rather state the opinion of purchasers collectively; and certainly the opinions of the trade in this country would more agree, though they would in some respects differ with the inspectors here, than with the opinion of the factory abroad, judging from the prices at which the teas sell; the fact of some of the 2s. 1d. teas not finding any purchaser, and 1s. 8d. teas selling as high as 2s. 5d., would argue against the judgment of the factory at Canton.

6462. Is

25 June 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

6462. Is it not the fact that teas rejected at one sale, and put up at a subsequent sale, without any price, have frequently fetched a higher price than teas put up at the same sale at the price at which they were originally put up at the previous sale?—If prices have generally advanced, teas which were rejected at 2*s.* 1*d.* at a former sale, and which would have found customers at 2*s.* 0½*d.*, if the prices have advanced from the Company diminishing the quantity, would fetch the prices at which they were rejected on a former sale.

6463. What are the descriptions of tea for which you conceive there might possibly be an increased demand in England, were the supply adequate?—I should say generally that the consumption of tea might be materially increased. I do not myself see why the consumption of tea should not keep pace with the consumption of coffee. The consumption of coffee, since 1824, has increased above 130 per cent.; the consumption of tea within that time has increased only 26 per cent.

6464. What is the particular quality of tea in which you conceive there is the greatest opening for an increased consumption?—I should think the lowest teas and the finest teas are the two descriptions of tea of which the greatest increase in quantity might be sold; but I think generally the consumption of tea might be greatly increased if the supply was increased.

6465. Have you seen the return from the East-India House, in which the average prime cost of tea at Canton is stated for the last six years?—Yes, I have.

6466. Have you compared that with the price at which the Company have sold those teas?—I have.

6467. What is the general inference you have drawn as to the profit of the Company from those sales upon that comparison?—I compared the average cost price at Canton in 1828-29 with the sale prices of the last sale; probably some of the identical teas purchased in 1828-29 were then sold. On the bohea the advance upon the lowest was ninety-two per cent., and upon the highest one hundred and forty per cent.; on the lowest congou, put up at 1*s.* 8*d.*, the advance was seventy-five per cent., and the highest ninety-nine per cent., and on congous put up at 2*s.* 1*d.* the advance upon the lowest was seventy-eight per cent., and upon the highest one hundred and ninety-five per cent.; on twankay put up at 2*s.* 2*d.* the advance on the lowest was sixty-six per cent., and on the highest one hundred and fifty-three per cent.; and on hysons put up at 3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* the advance on the lowest was seventy-nine per cent., and on the highest one hundred and forty-one per cent.

[The witness delivers in the Statement, which is read, and is as follows:]

25 June 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

STATEMENT of ADVANCE ON TEAS sold at the JUNE SALE 1830 above the Average Cost Prices of 1828-29 at Canton, as stated in Returns made by the East India Company, dated 17th March 1830.

DESCRIPTION.	AVERAGE COST PRICE at Canton, 1828-29.	PUTTING-UP PRICE, June Sale 1830.	SELLING PRICES, June Sale 1830.	ADVANCE PER CENT. on Average Cost Price at Canton.
Bohea....	0/9 512	1/5	{ Lowest 1/ 6½ Highest 1/ 10½	About 92 per cent. 91 86 140 — 139 17
Congou ..	1/2 587	1/8	{ Lowest 2/ 1½ Highest 2/ 5	75 — 74 81 99 — 98 80
Congou ..	1/2 587	2/1	{ Lowest 2/ 2 Highest 3/ 7	78 — 78 24 195 — 194 78
Twankay	1/3 810	2/2	{ Lowest 2/ 2½ Highest 3/ 4	66 — 66 03 153 — 153 —
Hyson ...	2/2 263	3/ and 3/9	{ Lowest 3/ 11 Highest 5/ 3½	79 — 78 96 141 — 141 40

6468. Can you, from that statement, draw an inference as to the net profit of the Company here upon the whole sale?—I have made a calculation of the advance on teas, sold at the East-India Company's sale in season 1830, above the putting-up price.

6469. What notice have you taken in that paper of teas rejected at former sale brought in again?—There were no rejected congous put up at the last sale; there were a few twankays, which I have omitted; they sold, in consequence of the deficiency of supply, at a considerable advance.

[The paper is delivered in, and is read as follows:]

CLA-

CALCULATION of the ADVANCE on TEAS, sold at the EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SALE
in June 1830, above the Putting-up Price.

25 June 1830.

Mr. T. Mills.

	£.	s.	d.
On bohea teas, put up at 1s. 5d. per lb.	15,859	15	9
On congou teas, put up at 1s. 8d. per lb.	£40,353	18	7
On congou teas, put up at 2s. 1d. per lb.	43,289	7	1
On campoi teas, put up at 2s. 4d. per lb.	117	16	8
On twankay teas, put up at 2s. 2d. per lb.	11,080	16	1
On hyson skin-teas, put up at 2s. 3d. per lb.	749	14	4
On hyson teas, put up at 3s. per lb.	3,301	11	2
On hyson teas, put up at 3s. 9d. per lb.	6,184	18	5
	£105,078	2	4
Lot Money.....	1,240	0	0
	106,318	2	4
Profit to the East India Company above the putting-up price	£122,177	18	1
Add 96 per cent. duty on bohea teas	15,225	7	7
Add valorem duty on the other sorts of teas	105,078	2	4
Cost to the consumers above the putting-up price.....	£242,481	8	0

6470. Have you any means of knowing what the advance per cent. is in the price of teas sold by the Americans in the United States and on the Continent of Europe beyond the original price of those teas at Canton?—No, I have not.

6471. The net profit then, that we are to infer the Company derive from their sale in June 1830, to which your calculation refers, was £122,177 18s. 1d.?—Yes; that is the calculation of the profit above the putting-up price.

6472. Are you of opinion that the profit is less or greater than in the corresponding sales of the preceding year?—I should hardly venture to give an opinion upon that, for the prices of teas vary greatly; tea is lower than it used to be, though it has declined in value much less than many other articles of consumption.

6473. Are you aware of any reason why that sale should have differed particularly from other sales?—Yes. I think that the report in circulation, and the inadequacy of the stock, had an effect.

6474. Will you state whether those descriptions of teas which you have represented to be furnished exclusively by private traders, under the sanction of the Company, are to be obtained as regularly as the Company's teas?—The ships from Canton arrive only once in the year, and the private trade always sell their teas at the ensuing sale after their arrival; the sale of those teas, therefore, generally takes place in June; but some of the ships arrive late

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late, and then the sale of the remainder of that private trade takes place in September; but the supply of that description of tea must always be purchased at those two sales for the rest of the year.

6475. The supply cannot be so regularly depended upon of that description of teas as the supply of those teas furnished by the Company?—No. I will beg to state the description of teas for which we depend entirely on the supply of the private trade; the Company do sometimes import souchong and pekoe, but they have now none to sell. The other sorts are padree, caper, tetsoong, and ancovy, of black teas; and young hyson and gunpowder, of green teas; those are among the finest description of hyson sold.

6476. Are they of a finer quality than any imported by the Company?—Certainly. They have only once in my time imported young hyson, and once gunpowder; the gunpowder fetches a higher price than any of the Company's teas.

6477. Can you state what are the rates charged by the Company for disposing of teas imported by private individuals?—They charge their own officers an ad-valorem duty of about twenty-six per cent. As they are sold at the East-India House, of course the Company know the price they obtain, and they take off a sum amounting to twenty-six per cent.

6478. Are those rates greater or less than they charge for other goods?—They are very different.

6479. Can you state the difference?—On silk, which is, upon the average, threefold the value of teas, they charge only one and a half per cent.; and on spices, which are about the same value as tea, they charge only one and a quarter. This is their own printed schedule of rates to which I am referring:

[The same is delivered in, and is read as follows:]

SCHEDULE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS. 811

SCHEDULE of RATES to be charged by the East India Company for the Management and Sale
of Goods imported by Private Merchants.

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For Wharfage, Landing, Cartage, Housing, Coopering, Taring, mending Packages if broken by ordinary Ship's Breakage, enlarging Indigo or other Chests when necessary, Weighing, shewing to the Buyers, printing Catalogues, selling at the Sales at the East-India House, or shewing and Attendance in case the Importer shall sell the Goods by Private Sale, and delivering: calculated on the Sale Value of Goods sold at the Company's Sales, and on the estimated Value of Goods sold by Private Bargain.			For Warehouse Rent, per Week, payable upon each Parcel of a Ship's Cargo, from the Day on which the first Parcel of Goods by that Ship shall be delivered into the Company's Warehouses.		
			N.B.—On Goods sold at the Company's Sales, the Importer is to pay the Weekly Rent until the Prompt Day,* from which Day the Buyer is to pay it.		
	Rates per Cent.				
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
Aloes	2	10 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Alum	4	0 0	0	0 5	per ton.
Annatto	3	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Aniseed	4	0 0	0	0 1½	per chest.
			0	1 0	per leaguer.
Arrack and other spirits	2	0 0	0	0 8	per butt.
			0	0 6	per pipe or puncheon.
Arrow root	4	0 0	0	0 7½	per ton.
Arsenic, hartall, and orpiment	5	0 0	0	1 3	per ton.
Assafoetida	3	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Bark	4	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Bees wax	3	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Betel nuts	4	0 0	0	0 5	per ton.
Borax and tincal	3	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Callicoes, white, printed, or dyed (vide piece goods).					
Cambogium	2	0 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Camphire	2	0 0	0	1 3	per ton.
Canes and sticks, 1s. 6d. per hundred, } in tale .....	.....		0	0 2	per thousand.
Cardemoms	2	0 0	0	1 3	per ton.
Cassia buds	2	10 0	0	0 10	per ton.
Cassia lignea	4	0 0	0	1 3	per ton.
Castor beans	7	0 0	0	0 5	per ton.

(continued.)

* That is, the day (fixed at the time of sale) upon which the buyer engages to pay in full for the goods bought by him.—In case the goods shall not pass the sales, the whole of the warehouse rent until the period of delivery will of course remain a charge upon the goods, and be paid by the importer, or the person to whom he may transfer his property in the goods.

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	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Castor oil, in dippers or jars	3	10	0	0	1	8 per ton.
Castor oil, in bottles	7	0	0	0	0	1 per chest.
Cayenne pepper	4	0	0	0	0	0½ per bag.
Chassum, 10s. per bale not exceeding 4 maunds .....	.....			0	0	1½ per bale.
Chillies. { in bales ...	5	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
{ in bundles .	7	0	0	0	1	3 per ton.
China root	5	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Chinese manufactures; viz. china ware, coque-de-perle, fans, ink, mats, lac- quered ware, mother-o'-pearl ware, paper, soy, &c.	2	0	0	0	0	2 per chest until prompt day, and afterwards 1d. per lot if divided.
Cinnabar or vermillion	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Cinnamon	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per bale.
Cloves	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per chest.
Cochineal	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Coculus indicus	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Coffee, of all kinds	2	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Columbo root	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Cornelian, agate, and arrangoe stones, beads and manufactures of ditto; also coral beads.	2	0	0	0	0	2 per chest until prompt day, and afterwards 1d. per lot if divided.
Cotton thread or yarn	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per bale.
Cotton wool. { Bengal, { Madras, { and Surat }	1	10	0	0	0	0½ per 100lbs.
	On a fixed value of 6d. per pound.					
Cotton wool, Bourbon	1	10	0	0	0	1½ per bale.
	On a fixed value of 1s. per pound.					
Cowries	7	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Cubebs	3	0	0	0	1	3 per ton.
Cummin seed	2	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Dragon's blood	3	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Elephant's teeth and sea horse teeth . .	2	0	0	0	0	1 per cwt.
Frankincense	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Galanga root	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Galbanum	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Galls	3	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Ginger	6	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Gum ammoniac	2	10	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum animi or copal	2	10	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum arabic	3	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.

(continued.)

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	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Gum benjamin	3	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum kino	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum mastich	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum myrrh	2	10	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum olibanum	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum senega	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum tragacanth	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Gum unrated	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Hemp and sunn	2	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Hides	5	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Horns, buffalo	7	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Horn tips	4	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Indigo	2	0	0	0	0	1½ per chest of any weight.
Kelp, barilla, alkali, and soda	7	0	0	0	0	0½ per cwt.
Lac lake and lac dye	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Lichen or moss	7	0	0	0	0	1 per bale.
Long pepper	3	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Mace	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per chest.
Molasses	2	0	0	{	0	0 6 per hogshead.
				{	0	1 0 per pipe or leaguer.
Mother-o'-pearl shells	3	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Murjeet..... { in bales	3	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
{ in bags or bundles...	4	0	0	0	1	3 per ton.
Musk	1	0	0	{	0	0 2 per chest until prompt day, and afterwards ½d. per lot if divided.
Muslins, white, printed, or dyed (vide piece goods).						
Myrabolanes	7	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Nankeens... { Passing Company's sales	1	10	0	{	0	0 1 per bale or chest.
{ By private bargain.....	1	5	0			
Nutmegs	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per chest.
Nux vomica	5	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
				{	0	0 2 per chest until prompt day; and afterwards for quart bottles, loose, not exceeding six per lot, ¼th of a penny per quart bottle; if exceeding six per lot, 1d. per dozen quart bottles. Canister under 400 ounces, ½d. per canister; exceeding 400 ounces, 1d. per canister.
Oils, chemical	2	0	0			
				{	0	0 6 per hogshead.
Oil of cocoa nut.....	3	0	0	{	0	1 0 per pipe or leaguer.

(continued.)

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	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Opium	1	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Pepper, black	2	0	0	0	0	1 per bag of 316 lbs.
Pepper, white	2	0	0	0	0	0½ per bag of 22½ lbs.
Piece goods, cotton, white, coloured, and mixed silk	1	10	0	}	0	0 1½ per bale.
{ Passing Com- pany's sales .. By private bar- gain	1	5	0			
Piece goods, silk,	1	0	0	}	0	0 1½ per bale.
{ Passing Company's sales	0	15	0			
By private bargain.	2	0	0			
Puree	0	0	0	0	0	1 per chest.
Rattans, 2s. per thousand, in tale				0	0	2 per thousand.
Red saunders wood	5	0	0	0	0	1½ per ton.
Rhubarb	2	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Rice	3	10	0	0	0	0½ per bag.
Safflower	2	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Sago	6	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Sal ammoniac	3	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Saltpetre	3	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Sandal wood	3	0	0	0	0	3 per ton.
Sapan wood	4	0	0	0	0	2 per ton.
Sea horse teeth (vide elephant's teeth).						
Sealing wax	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Seed lac	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Seeds of all kinds	4	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Senna	2	10	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Shawls... { Passing Company's sales..	1	0	0	}	0	0 1½ per bale.
By private bargain	0	15	0			
Shellac	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Silk, viz. raw silk of Bengal or China..	1	0	0	0	0	1½ per bale.
Silks, wrought (vide piece goods, silk).						
Skins	6	0	0	0	0	1 per hundred.
Soap	5	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Spirits (vide arrack).						
Sticklac	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Sugar	2	0	0	0	0	0½ per cwt.
Sugar candy	2	0	0	0	0	1 per chest.
Talc or ubruc	4	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Tamarinds	4	0	0	0	0	10 per ton.
Terra japonica	4	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.
Tin	1	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.

(continued.)

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Mr. T. Mills.

	Rates per Cent.			Warehouse Rent per Week.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tortoiseshell	1	0	0	0	0	1 per box.
Turmeric	5	0	0	0	0	5 per-ton.
Tutenague	2	0	0	0	0	5 per ton.
Ultramarine	2	0	0	0	0	1 per box.
Wood for dyeing, and all other wood except red saunders, sandal, and sapan wood	7	0	0	0	0	2 per tou.
Wool of sheep or goats	3	0	0	0	0	1 per bale.
Zedoaria	2	0	0	0	0	7½ per ton.

Articles not enumerated will be charged according to their value and bulk.

These rates are calculated on the usual packages in which goods have hitherto been imported. Proportionable rates will be charged for any other kinds of packages.

If goods require to be garbled, or to have new packages, a reasonable price will be charged for the same.

A charge of one quarter per cent. on the gross value of all goods sold at the Company's sales, and of one-eighth per cent. on all goods delivered by valuation or private bargain, will be made to the proprietors, in addition to the above per-centage respectively.

The usual petty fee of lot or loading money will be paid to the warehousekeepers by the parties who may take the goods away.

East India House, 4th October 1826.

6480. Are you aware of any reason why they should make so great a difference in the charge upon different descriptions of commodities?—My opinion is, that they make this charge on teas to prevent the competition of their own servants.

6481. You infer that they apprehend that competition more in the case of tea than of other commodities?—Certainly.

6482. Do they take into consideration, in making that charge, the circumstance of their officers bringing home their teas free from freight?—No. In the agreement the Company make with their officers, a certain quantity of tonnage is allowed them, and in that tonnage the officers bring home either teas, silk, or mother of pearl shells, or any thing they please, or they even sell it sometimes. These are the papers in which their charges are stated ;

(5 n 2)

they

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they charge twelve per cent. on one account, and sixteen per cent. on another account, averaging together twenty-six per cent.

6483. Do the purchasers of tea meet with the same facilities of accommodation from the Company as the purchasers of other goods?—No, I certainly think not; the few sales that occur in the course of the year are a great inconvenience to the trade. In every other article in which there is such a large consumption, the sales occur daily and weekly, such as sugar and coffee and groceries; and whenever the trade has had an occasion to make any application to the Company, they have been disinclined to comply with it. They make a charge for lot money, which is much greater than is made by other importers; they charge 3*d.* a chest for lotting teas, and that produces about £6,000 a year to the Company; the lotting of the tea is done for their own convenience; and on many occasions the trade have applied to the Company for its remission, but without success.

6484. Are you of opinion that the opening of the trade from Canton, and doing away with the monopoly of the Company, would be favourable or injurious to your interests as a tea-dealer?—The brokers, who at present have a brokerage upon the whole of the teas imported, wish generally the trade to be confined to this port. The dealers, I think, are divided in opinion; all of them would wish the trade thrown open if the imports could be confined to the port of London. My own opinion is, that it would be more for my personal interest if the trade was thrown open.

6485. Would it not be clearly for the personal interest of the tea-dealers in other parts of the country than London?—Decidedly. The objection felt by any portion of the trade here is, that tea-dealers in other parts of the country would be benefited at their expense.

6486. Have you any doubt that there would be a greatly increased consumption of tea, supposing the trade were thrown open generally?—I have no doubt at all of it.

6487. Do you think that teas of inferior quality would be obtained at a cheaper rate?—I have no positive facts on which to form that opinion; but the calculation of the Company's profit leads to such an inference.

6488. Have you any doubt tea might be imported at a much cheaper rate by private merchants?—I have no doubt of that; for the private merchant would be content with a small portion of the Company's profits.

6489. Do you supply any persons in Ireland with tea?—No.

6490. You are not aware of the state of consumption of tea in Ireland?—No. I am aware there are houses in London who purchase it for the consumption of Ireland, and that a very considerable quantity is purchased for Ireland.

6491. You have no means of judging whether a more or less increased consumption would take place in Ireland in consequence of opening the trade?

trade?—I think the consumption of tea would be generally increased if the quantity was increased.

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6492. Can you state the difference between the wholesale and retail price of the different qualities of teas?—No; that is quite uncertain. In towns where there is a great competition the retailer is satisfied with a much less profit than he would be in cases where there was no competition.

6493. In London what is the per-centage?—I do not know; I am not a retailer, and I supply no London retail dealer.

6494. Whom do you supply?—We supply country grocers—the retail grocers.

6495. What is the highest price you pay for any tea you buy?—We buy all varieties, from 1s. 6d. to 5s. 3d.

6496. Is 5s. 3d. the highest price you have given for teas of late years?—No; occasionally a very small quantity may have sold at a higher price.

6497. Do you transact all your business through brokers?—We attend the sale room when the teas are put up, and nod to a broker, who makes the bidding.

6498. You bid through him, upon your own judgment; you do not trust to his judgment?—Of course we act upon our own judgment.

6499. What is the commission paid to the broker?—An half per cent.

6500. Are there many wholesale tea dealers in London?—Yes, there is a considerable number.

6501. The trade is not confined to a small number of persons;—No. I cannot give a guess as to the number, but I should say there may be three or four hundred.

6502. To what circumstance do you attribute the reduction which has taken place in the price of tea of late years?—To the increased quantity declared by the Company for sale.

6503. Do you not apprehend that the increased consumption of coffee has had a considerable effect in reducing the price of tea; that it has been used by the lower orders as a substitute?—Certainly.

6504. Do you apprehend that the increased consumption of coffee will be progressive at the present relative duties on tea and coffee?—I can hardly give an opinion; the consumption of coffee continues to increase every year; and I see no reason why the consumption of tea should not increase in the same ratio.

6505. If coffee increases in the same ratio, will it not displace so much tea in the general consumption of the country?—The population of the country is increasing; if the price of coffee was to decline, I think that would be very unfavourable to the consumption of tea.

6506. How much per cent. is the price of coffee increased by the duty?—The duty is sixpence a pound.

6507. What

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6507. What increase is that upon the price?—Coffee sells at all prices; it is impossible to tell; coffees are bought as low as 30s. per cwt.; the duty is 56s. per cwt.

6508. What is the highest price?—Mocha coffee sells for six guineas; the duty upon that is ninepence per lb., and on all East-India coffees.

6509. Can you say what is the average increase in price per cent. on coffee, in consequence of the duty?—No, I cannot.

6510. Of that quality, what is most usually consumed?—There is such a variety of coffee; I have bought coffee at 38s., and coffee at £6.

6511. What is the rate of duty per cent. on coffee of the highest price?—It would be nearly one hundred per cent. on the cost of mocha; £6 is a very high price.

6512. The highest price you have given for hyson tea is 5s. 8d.?—That was the highest price at the last sale; it has fetched more.

6513. What is the highest price you have given for black tea?—There is a very small quantity of fine tea brought over by the private trade, and which comes over as presents.

6514. The question refers to that brought over by the Company?—Souchongs have sold at 4s. 9d.

6515. On what kinds of tea has the price fallen most?—I cannot give an opinion.

6516. How do you explain the circumstance of so large a quantity as fifteen or sixteen hundred thousand pounds of tea being refused by the trade at an advance on the upset price, and yet there having been a great increase on the upset price on the quantities sold?—Because that tea refused and put up at 2s. 1d. was not worth the price at which it was put up; other tea put up at 1s. 8d. has fetched 2s. 5d.

6517. You attribute its rejection to its not being of the value at which it was put up?—Undoubtedly; it would have been bought at any sale at which it was rejected at very near 2s. 1d. or at 2s. 0½d.

6518. Are you not aware that some of that tea, which had been rejected as not being worth an advance on the upset price, has been sold at the next sale at a higher price than that at which it had been offered at the previous sale?—Not unless there was an advance in the price of teas of the same quality; generally the variation would not, in the opinion of dealers, shew the value of tea, for the reasons I have already stated.

6519. The Company have no controul over the quantity put up by their officers?—They know what that quantity will be, and they limit their own supply accordingly. They make up the quantity over and above the quantity sold by their officers.

6520. As the quantity of tea rejected by the public has increased very much of late years, do you apprehend that the quality of the tea put up by the

the Company has been inferior, and that the upset price has been higher, in proportion to the value of the tea, than it used to be?—I should say there was, in every sale, a greater quantity than there used to be of what we call a fresh new tea. The teas are not so strong as they used to be.

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6521. What do you mean by a fresh tea?—Those terms are used in the Company's character; it is a weaker tea; not a strong coarse tea.

6522. It does not mean that it is a young tea?—No.

6523. Is that tea, called fresh new tea, generally inferior in value to the price at which it is put up?—Not necessarily, because there are fresh new teas put up both at 1s. 8d. and 2s. 1d.

6524. Is it tea of that description which has been usually rejected?—Yes, frequently.

6525. Are you aware what the decrease of price had been, previous to the last sale, within the last six years?—No, I have not made a calculation.

6526. Have you estimated the net profit, in the manner in which you have estimated it for the last sale, in any previous year?—No, I have not.

6527. Are you aware whether the net profit on the last sale was greater or less than in June 1826, for instance?—No, I am not.

The witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, that this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, one o'clock.

Die Martis, 29^o Junii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

29 June 1830

Ordered, that this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next, one o'clock.

Die Jovis, 1^o Julii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Mr. RICHARD SHAW is called in, and examined as follows:

1 July 1830.

6528. You are a manufacturer of bombasins and camlets at Norwich, are you not?—I am, of both.

Mr. R. Shaw.

6529. What

1 July 1830.

Mr. R. Shaw.

6529. What is the difference between them?—A bombasin is made of silk and worsted, a camlet of all worsted.

6530. Which articles have you chiefly supplied the East-India Company with?—They buy principally camlets.

6531. Has there been an increase or a decrease in the quantity purchased by the East-India Company during the last twenty or twenty-five years?—I believe that there is a smaller quantity ordered now than there was twenty years back; I can speak to the trade for eighteen or nineteen years, during which I have been in it for the Company.

6532. To what extent has there been a decrease during that period?—I think from three to five thousand pieces a-year. Formerly the Company's order was from fifteen to eighteen thousand pieces a year; for the last eight or ten years there has been only twelve thousand each year, except one year, when there were fifteen thousand.

6533. Is the manner of purchase by tender?—Yes.

6534. Is the lowest tender invariably accepted?—That I am not able to say; we very seldom know each other's tenders. They are not bound to take the lowest offer. I can show one of the circulars, if it is desired.

[The witness produces the same, and it is read, and is as follows:]

CAMLETS for CHINA, 1830-31.

Sir,

East-India House, 28th Oct. 1829.

I am ordered by the committee of buying and warehouses of the East-India Company to acquaint you, that the committee will be ready on Wednesday the 18th November 1829, at eleven o'clock precisely, to consider tenders (sealed up) for supplying the Company with 12,000 pieces of camlets, upon the following conditions and stipulations, viz.

2. The camlets are to be of the following rates, weights, and dimensions, viz.

	Chain Score.	Shoot		Shoots to an inch.	Weight.	
		Dozen	Skeins.		lb. oz.	lb. oz.
Doubles	23 4	29	0	50 Double...	19 12	to 20 0
Singles.....	21 4	14	9	51 Single ...	19 8	to 19 12
Second singles	16 4	13	6	47 Single ...	19 8	to 19 12

3. Every camlet must measure 55 yards in length, of 37 inches to the yard, and be full 30 inches in width; the selvages are to be without stripes, and every piece must have two roses at each end, with the manufacturer's name or mark inserted at one end.

4. The goods are to be boiled, so as to render them soft and pliable; and they are

are to be well finished in every respect. The threads of the camlets must be round and even, and the texture of the weaving close. The colours must be sound and brilliant, free from cloudiness, and correctly match the Company's patterns, to which the most scrupulous conformity will be required.

1 July 1830.

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5. The camlets are to be forwarded made up on boards exactly 16 inches wide ; the boards must be free from turpentine, well planed, and papered all over ; all folds in the goods must be avoided, and they are to have the ends slightly tacked, in order to keep them smooth.
6. The tenders must express a separate price for camlets of each quality and colour, as the committee will not engage to take the whole quantity which any manufacturer may offer at an aggregate or average price, but will buy such respective colours and quantities as may be tendered at the cheapest rates. Every manufacturer must consequently offer so many blacks, so many purples, &c., at a separate price for each, the committee having the option of taking all or any portion of the colours.
7. The deliveries are to commence on the 1st of March 1830, and end on the 31st of December 1830, in ten equal monthly proportions. No charge to be made for carriage to London, nor for cartage to the warehouse.
8. The opinion of the Company's overlookers as to the quality and colour of the goods shall be final ; and the overlookers shall be at liberty, should they see it proper, to cut off one of the roses of any of the camlets which they may reject, in order to prevent such camlets from being again sent into the Company's warehouse for re-inspection ; and the committee desire it to be most distinctly understood, that they will not enter into any discussion upon the merits of camlets which the overlookers may reject or may pass at abatements.
9. An abatement of five or ten shillings will be made upon any piece which may be found slightly defective in quality, colour, or in any other particular ; but any camlets which in the opinion of the overlookers are unfit to be passed, will be peremptorily rejected, and must be immediately replaced with approved goods ; but in case of a large proportion being objectionable, it shall be at the option of the Company to return the whole parcel, nor will they be received at the end of the season at a reduced price, as has sometimes been the practice.
10. The wrappers and packing materials of every description (except the boards upon which the camlets are made up) will be returned direct to the manufacturers, unless used up in packing the returned camlets, for which the overlookers are to receive sixpence, and no more, for each camlet.
11. Payment for the March delivery will be made on the first Thursday in May 1830, provided the goods shall have been duly delivered within the time fixed, and so on for each monthly delivery ; but all payments will be withheld from persons who may be in arrear with their monthly deliveries, until such arrears shall be made good. The usual office fee of one shilling upon each camlet passed to account will be deducted from the amount of each bill of parcels.
12. All tenders must be delivered at the office of the committee of buying and warehouses, in the East-India House, before eleven of the clock on Wednesday the 18th November 1829. Many persons not having been careful to send in their offers at or before the time appointed, it is positively ordered that no tender be received after the above-mentioned day and hour ; and this will be strictly observed by the committee.

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13. All goods which may be delivered in consequence of the present circular will lie at the Company's risk in case of the calamity of fire.
14. The committee reserve to themselves the right to reject any proposals which they may deem to be unreasonable, although such proposals may appear to be the lowest and most advantageous which may be offered.
15. The accompanying form must be adhered to, for which purpose you will please to copy the printed letter, and fill up the blanks, and sign the same, and by no means substitute any other form of tender. You will please to write on the cover of your letter "tender for camlets."
16. The camlets now wanted, provided the prices required shall be approved by the committee, are as follows:

CAMLETS, Double.

	Pieces.
Ash	20
Black	400
Light blue	140
Mazarine blue.....	480
Dark brown	20
Red brown	140
Purple	560
Scarlet	200
Deep yellow	40

Total doubles, pieces 2,000

CAMLETS, Single.

Ash	60
Black	1,200
Light blue.....	420
Mazarine blue.....	1,440
Dark brown.....	60
Red brown	420
Purple	1,680
Scarlet	600
Deep yellow.....	120

Total singles, pieces 6,000

CAMLETS, Second Single.

Ash	40
Black	800
Light blue	280
Mazarine blue	960
Dark brown.....	40
Red brown	280

Carried forward 2,400

	Pieces.
Brought forward.....	2,400
Purple	1,120
Scarlet	400
Deep yellow.....	80
Total second singles, pieces	<u>4,000</u>

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I am, Sir,
Your humble Servant,
WM. SIMONS.

All persons making tenders are required to insert their place of residence at length: if in London, the street must be named; and if in the country, the next post town must be also specified, unless the place itself be a post town, in which case the parties will notice that particular.

To the Honourable Committee of Buying and Warehouses of the East-India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

We hereby offer to supply the East-India Company with the under-mentioned camlets, or any part thereof, at the prices set against the same; to be subject to the conditions and stipulations contained in your letter dated the 28th October 1829.

CAMLETS, Double.

	Pieces.	At per piece.		
		£.	s.	d.
Ash				
Black				
Light blue				
Mazarine blue.....				
Dark brown				
Red brown				
Purple				
Scarlet				
Deep yellow				
Total double camlets				

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CAMLETS, Single.

	Pieces.	At per piece.
		£. s. d.
Ash		
Black		
Light blue		
Mazarine blue.....		
Dark brown		
Red brown		
Purple		
Scarlet.....		
Deep yellow		
Total single camlets.....		

CAMLETS, Second Single.

	Pieces.	At per piece.
Ash		
Black		
Light blue ...		
Mazarine blue		
Dark brown .		
Red brown ...		
Purple		
Scarlet.....		
Deep yellow .		
Total second single camlets ...		

We are, Honourable Sirs,

Your humble servants,

Dated at
this November 1829.

6535. Is the quantity of goods that is rejected by the Company considerable?—Very considerable.

6536. What is the nature of the inspection to which the goods are subjected on delivery—is that inspection carried on with fairness and with discrimination?—Certainly not; I offered to prove that last year, but the committee would not hear me.

5642. What

6537. What committee?—The committee for buying at the East-India House.

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6538. In what particular do you consider their mode of inspection defective?—I have had many hundreds of pieces returned which were from five to ten per cent. better than the patterns given me to work by.

6539. Have you known any instances in which goods have been returned by the Company without any obvious fault?—Yes, many instances of it.

6540. Have you ever known those same goods at a subsequent period passed?—Yes; about last May and June I received back a great quantity of goods which I knew had never been taken off the boards, nor ever examined; I dressed them again, and sent them back without any alteration, and a great many of them passed, and at the full prices.

6541. Have they always the same examiner?—There are three gentlemen overlook them.

6542. The goods the second time may have been before a different examiner?—That I cannot speak to.

6543. Have you had any opportunity of knowing whether those examiners, who have rejected the goods in the first instance, have been long in the employment of the East-India Company?—Two of them a considerable time longer than I have been a manufacturer for them; the other has been appointed since—I think some seven or eight years since. One of them, I think, has been there these forty years.

6544. Are camlets always delivered to the Company in a dyed state?—Yes, in a dyed state; different colours, according to their order.

6545. Is there any demand for camlets for the private trade?—There is a demand for what we call a private trade—a trade conducted by the Americans chiefly.

6546. Is that demand on the increase or the decline?—I think on the increase very much.

6547. During what period has it been so?—In 1821 the increase began to be very much; and from that time I believe it has increased yearly.

6548. What is the comparative quality, length, breadth, fineness, and weight of the camlets that are intended for the last-named trade, compared with the East-India Company's camlets?—I know of no difference; I have always made them alike, the same for the private trade as for the Company's trade; and indeed, when I made the camlets, I did not know whether they would be for the Company's or the private trade. They are always made in a white state, and I make a stock ready; and if I take an order for the Company, I dye them for the Company. The goods are quite equal.

6549. Have you reason to think that, in point of fact, the goods purchased by the private merchants are chiefly such as have been rejected by the Company?

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pany?—Certainly not; not one-tenth of what the private trade take have been rejected by the Company.

6550. Do you receive exactly the same price from the private merchant and the Company for the same goods?—We make the best bargain we can; provided we have a few returns in the house, we sell them somewhat cheaper; and I had rather always take an order from the private trade than for the Company, we are subject to so many deductions and returns.

6551. What does the difference amount to?—From five to seven and a half per cent.

6552. On the whole account?—Yes; the deductions last year from my order for the Company were £1,231. 10s. or thereabouts; the expences upon the returns, meaning carriage, &c., from London to Norwich, £366; the fees that I paid the Company were £542.

6553. Of what nature are the fees?—There is a shilling a piece deducted for office fee, and we pay sixpence per piece for the rejected camlets, for the packing for returning.

6554. Is that sum of £542 the fee you paid for the whole you furnished?—Yes.

6555. How many pieces were rejected?—I am not able to say that exactly; I should think from 4,500 to 5,000 pieces—better than 4,000 pieces certainly.

6556. Although the rejected pieces form but a small proportion of the quantity that is supplied to the private traders; in point of fact, have such pieces been frequently sold to the private merchants, and have they been exported by them to advantage?—Certainly.

6557. Is there any variation in the colour of the goods that are ordered by the private merchants and those that are ordered by the Company?—Very little indeed; there is one colour which the Company order, what they call light blues; the private trade order middle blues, meaning a little darker in the colour only.

6558. Do you think, from the degree in which the manufacturers are exposed to loss and vexation by the rejection of their goods by the Company, that the private merchant might buy on equally favourable or more advantageous terms than the Company?—Certainly.

6559. When you ask that additional price of five or seven and a half per cent. from the Company, in consequence of the power of rejection which is stipulated for, do you calculate likewise on what you pay in fees to them?—We calculate every thing; we are obliged to do so.

6560. That covers the probable difference between selling to them and to others?—Yes,

6561. What is the value of a piece of camlet at the present moment?—
According

According to the different colours; I should think the blacks are 76s. or 78s per piece.

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6562. Upon that you pay 1s. as office fee?—Yes, we do; then the overlookers have the liberty, if they think a piece a little inferior in quality, of deducting five or ten shillings from the price agreed by the Company. If I make my contract at 76s. or 78s. for blacks, if the overlookers consider a piece inferior in quality five or ten shillings, they will deduct five or ten shillings from that piece.

6563. They tell you you must take it back again, unless you deduct that amount?—No; they have the authority of deducting it themselves.

6564. If the pieces are still worse, they then reject them?—Yes.

6565. Do you furnish other goods instead of them?—In many instances the same pieces again, and they will pass.

6566. Do you pay the same fee upon them again?—No; there is no fee unless they pass, and sixpence for the repacking of those which are returned.

6567. Are there any instances of the Company defacing or marking goods that have been offered to them, in a way which shews they have been offered to them and rejected?—Every piece of goods which is dyed for the Company have what is called two roses marked at each end; the Company from their circular and the contract they make, have the liberty of cutting one of those marks off, which never can be put on again, which injures the piece very much.

6568. Do they often do that?—I had many hundreds lost last year.

6569. Have you found that always makes the piece very unsaleable, except at a great diminution of price?—Certainly.

6570. Have you found that such goods have been purchased by the Americans?—Yes, and others.

6571. What proportion do you conceive such pieces bear to the whole number that are supplied to the Americans?—Not one-tenth part.

6572. Have you yourself been much in the habit of selling manufactured articles to the Americans?—I think from 1821 up to 1828 I did nine-tenths of all the private trade which went from England. It was in 1821 the private trade began to increase very much; and from that time up to 1828, I think I may say I did nine-tenths of all the private trade in that article for the American trade to China.

6573. Have you found them in general as attentive to the quality of the goods which they purchased as the East-India Company?—I never sent any in or completed an order without their being inspected by some overlooker in London.

6574. They purchase through English agents, do they not?—One or two of

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of them; there are one or two American gentlemen give me orders, and they order the goods to be sent to their packers to be overlooked.

6575. Are there any other circumstances besides those you have mentioned, which lead you to think that the East-India Company purchased their goods at a much dearer rate than the private merchants?—No, I do not know any other circumstances than those I have stated; we are always obliged to guard against deductions, five or ten shillings a piece, which we are subject to, and for the returns for which we are obliged to make our prices to the Company higher than they otherwise would be.

6576. You stated that there had been a diminution in the demand of the East-India Company of late years; have you ever received from them any complaint as to the quality of goods which you have supplied, which could at all account for that diminution?—Never.

6577. The Company rejecting so many pieces, and the private merchants rejecting very few, do you apprehend that what remain to the Company would sell at a higher price than those purchased by the private merchant; that they are really better?—So trifling, that none but a good judge can know; for a camlet is an article which has been made such a number of years, and we have such specific directions how many threads to the inch, and how many shoots across, and so on; if one piece is not so good as another, it is by a journeyman not making it so well.

6578. What has been the reduction in the price of camlets during the last ten years?—I have had 140 shillings for the double camlets, and now we are making them at 78, and as low as 76.

6579. To what circumstances do you attribute the reduction of price?—The better methods of making the yarns. Twenty years ago we were obliged to use handspun yarns; now the mills will spin the yarns with greater facility, and much cheaper than they were then.

6580. Is that the sole cause of the reduction of price?—No; I believe wool is much cheaper.

6581. How far does the reduction in the price of wool enter into the reduction in the price of camlets?—It all depends on the difference of the price of wools; if it is threepence a pound, it makes a difference of five shillings on a piece of camlet; but every thing is cheaper; we formerly paid double the price for dyeing which we now do. The price of dyeing materials and the labour of dyeing is all down.

6582. Can you specify the portion of the reduction of price which is to be attributed to each of the several circumstances you have mentioned, and to any others you have not yet adverted to; can you say how much is to be attributed to the introduction of machinery, how much to the fall in the price of wool, how much to the fall in the price of dyeing materials, and so on?—I am not able to say that exactly.

6583. Can you make out such an account?—The dyeing, I think, makes a difference

a difference of ten shillings a piece less than it was ten years back, in some colours; not in blacks.

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6584. How far does any diminution in the price of labour enter into the comparison?—The labour is now as high as it was; it has never been lessened at all for weaving.

6585. Do you look forward to any further diminution in the price of camlets?—I do not think it likely at the present moment; the price must be increased, for wool is getting up. Wool has risen within this last two or three months.

6586. How much?—I think about five per cent.

6587. Are they made upon long or short wool?—Long wool.

6588. Do you consider the quality of the camlet equal to that it was ten years ago?—Better.

6589. So that a better article is furnished at a much lower price?—Yes, at a little more than half the price.

6590. At what do you reckon the improvement in the intrinsic value of the article?—I think more than five per cent.; but where there is a quantity of pieces made, there will be five per cent. difference only in workmanship of different weavers.

6591. Do you use nothing but long wool in the manufacture?—Nothing but long wool; we cannot use short wool.

6592. Have not you found that the decreased price has led to an increased demand for goods?—I should think it has; in the case of bombasins and other articles it has been so. I cannot account for the increased demand for camlets otherwise; it may be from the difference in the price.

6593. How do you reconcile the diminution of demand on the part of the East-India Company with the increased demand on the part of the Americans?—I am not able to answer that question; I suppose the Company find things that pay them better than camlets, or they would send more of them.

6594. Have you any opportunity of knowing whether the diminution of demand on the part of the East-India Company is owing to the manufacture of woollen articles on the continent for that market?—I am not able to say a word, except as to my own manufactures. I have no knowledge of any thing else.

6595. As your dealings with the Americans have been free from some of the inconveniences to which you have been subject in your contracts with the East-India Directors, do you upon the whole prefer them as purchasers to the East-India Company?—Certainly.

6596. Are there more camlet weavers now than you can find employment for in the city of Norwich?—Yes, many more; there are a great many out of employment at this present moment.

6597. Can you state at all what proportion those out of employment bear to

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to those now in employment?—I should think that one-third of the camlet weavers are out of employment.

6598. And yet the wages of those in employment are the same as they were ten years ago, the price of provisions being so much cheaper?—Yes; the prices have not been lowered, and I should think that they cannot be much lowered; it is a very laborious employment.

6599. What is the average of their earnings?—I should take the average of their earnings to be from twelve to fourteen shillings a-week, from which there are some little expenses to pay.

6600. Were there a great number of them out of employment ten years ago?—Yes.

6601. Was there about the same proportion?—Yes, I believe so; the camlet has been chiefly made at Norwich this year; the Yorkshire manufacturers have got a part of the Company's order; they had a part of the order in 1826; they were not able to get through with it, and I completed the order for them.

6602. In what part of Yorkshire?—I think it is at Halifax, or near.

6603. In what year had the camlet weavers full employment?—In 1822. I was then obliged to teach a number of men; there were not camlet hands enough to complete the Company's orders, and the private orders I then had, which were very large.

6604. Has there always been a number of manufacturers out of employment except at that time?—It is only a certain number of hands that can weave the camlet; there are many weavers in Norwich who cannot weave the camlet. They must be strong men; it is hard work.

6605. When they were in full employment in 1822, what were their wages?—They did not earn more money: such men as are at work can earn that I have stated, but there are a great many now who have no work.

6606. Have you any reason to suppose that a free trade to China and the East-Indies would increase the trade in camlets?—I cannot speak to that, except that the private trade has been increasing for some years, and that if the English gentlemen were enabled to go there, I think there would be more goods sent; I know some English gentlemen who would be willing to send, but who are now obliged to send to Singapore.

6607. Have you sold many that you knew were going to Singapore?—Yes, a great many thousands.

6608. Is that trade increasing?—I think it is; it has increased within the last year very much.

6609. Do you know whether any foreign merchants, Dutch or others, export British manufactures?—I believe they do. I have had one or two orders to go to Germany, which I understood were for the China market.

6610. Have you ever heard whether any Chinese merchants themselves have

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have sent any orders to this country for goods?—I am not able altogether to speak to that point further than this, that a gentleman was in England some four months back, who gave me an order for two thousand pieces of camlets. It is for us to see how the goods are to be paid for; he proposed to give me a letter of credit on a respectable house in London from one of the Hong merchants, in part payment, and I understood from a gentleman who ordered them, that the camlets were for this Hong merchant; "I took that in part payment, and took the acceptance of the gentleman who gave me the order at eighteen months, with a lien on the goods till the money was paid.

6611. Do you suppose that order from the Hong merchant to be the only one which has reached this country?—I never heard of one before, nor ever saw a letter of credit from a Hong merchant before.

6612. You satisfied yourself that that letter of credit was such as it was prudent to accept?—Yes, it would have been so here, but that the exchange was against it.

6613. Do you recollect the name of the Hong merchant?—I believe it was one of those that failed afterwards; but it was before his failure, and I had a lien on the goods.

6614. When was this order given you?—I think in February last, and I completed it on the 10th of April; the goods are gone.

6615. You consider the transaction as a perfectly safe one for yourself?—Certainly; I sent out the letter of credit through my agent in London.

6616. Were the camlets you were desired to make for the Hong merchant on his account, directed to be of the same quality and appearance as those made for the East-India Company?—My contract was exactly the same for quality, equal to the East-India Company's tendered pattern.

6617. Are the goods you manufacture for the private trade of the same quality and marks as the East-India Company's goods?—Exactly so, imitated in every respect.

6618. Do the Company and private merchants pay ready money, or by bills at a certain date?—That depends on the agreement; if we make an agreement to take bills, and I have taken many on respectable houses in England, they add the interest on the bills. There are one or two houses I take a great deal of money from, who will not permit a bill to be drawn; if we cash it, we agree for the credit, and discount it at once.

6619. How do the Company pay?—We deliver the goods monthly to the Company, which are looked over in March, and paid for in May.

6620. Have you reason to suppose that any other Hong or Chinese merchants at Canton are likely to follow the example of the individual you have referred to?—I am not able to answer that question.

6621. Have you heard of any considerable manufactories of camlets on the Continent of Europe?—No; there is a manufactory at or near Dresden, I believe,

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believe, but they are a different kind of manufacture; they are called camlets, but they are what we call mohair; they make about 7,000 pieces a year. The mohair is purchased in England, and sent to Holland to be manufactured there.

6622. Is there any manufactory in Saxony of camlet made of a finer species of wool than is manufactured at Norwich?—No; I have made the finest that ever were made, to be sent out as presents to the Hong merchants.

6623. Do you happen to know whether there is much interest felt at Norwich about opening the East-India and China trade?—I believe they would like to have it opened; I speak from the opinion of a good many of them.

6624. Has there been any petition to Parliament from the camlet weavers on the subject?—No.

6625. How do you account for that?—I am not able to say, except that the masters have not taken it up, and that the journeymen dare not take it up without their masters set the example.

6626. Do you think it is in part owing to the masters being generally employed by the East-India Company?—Certainly.

6627. You think that, if they had not received orders for manufactured articles from the East-India Directors, they would have petitioned?—I am not able to say that; but if the masters had taken it up, there would have been the signatures of all the men.

6628. Do you know whether, within the last two years, those orders have been more distributed among all the manufacturers than they were formerly?—It depended on the tender; last year I had an order for 10,848 pieces out of 12,000 myself; this year it is distributed amongst them all.

6629. Had it been usual before to distribute it among them all?—In 1824 I had 10,800 of them, and since that it has been distributed among the different manufacturers till last year, when I had the greatest part of them again.

6630. You have stated that there is a manufactory at Dresden of camlets; are they manufactured of wool from this country?—One half is of wool, I do not suppose from this country, and the other half of mohair.

6631. You stated that a part of the Saxon manufacture is of very fine wool; that is the wool of the growth of that country?—Yes.

6632. Have you used any New South Wales wool in your manufactures?—No, I never use foreign articles, except that sometimes we use the merinos in making very fine bombasins for Spain; it is chiefly Lincoln and Leicester for the camlets.

6633. Do you know any thing of the manufacture of shawls at Norwich?—Yes.

6634. Has there been any large number of them sent out to China?—Not a large

a large quantity; I should think there have been some sent but for the last five or six years.

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6635. Do you think the demand for them has increased of late years?—I think it has.

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6636. That is, comparatively speaking, a new manufacture at Norwich, is it not?—No, fifteen years back I did a great deal in the shawl trade; it has been going to Glasgow; the Scotch have got it principally now, but there are some still making at Norwich.

6637. Are there any other woollen goods besides camlets for which there is an increasing demand at Norwich for the American trade?—Yes, there is a plaid made called the Scotch plaid; there is occasionally a very great demand for them in America.

6638. Are there any other woollen goods manufactured at Norwich?—No, not of any consequence.

6639. Are crapes woollens?—Crapes are wool one way, and silk another.

6640. Have any new colours been introduced, or any new combination of colours, into the manufacture of camlets of late years?—No, I think not; there are no more colours now than there were. There have not been any rose pinks in the Company's orders of late.

6641. Do you ever adopt new colours or combinations of colours on speculation, or do you wait for an order?—We always wait for an order.

6642. You never receive any patterns of foreign camlets?—Never but once in my life; that was a colour they called the Esterhazy; they wished me to make two or three pieces as presents for the Hong merchants.

The Witness is directed to withdraw. *

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 6^o Julii 1830.

The LORD PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Captain RICHARD ALSAGER is called in, and examined as follows:

6643. WHAT is your profession?—A sailor. I have been nine voyages as an officer in the Company's service, and five as a commander.

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6644. You have been fourteen voyages in all?—Yes; and one as a mid-shipman also.

Capt. R. Alsager.

6645. Were

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Capt. R. Alsager.

6645. Were those voyages all to China?—No, only nine; five as an officer, and four in command of the *Waterloo*, a Company's ship of 1325 tons.

6646. Did you rise to the command of a ship after nine voyages?—Yes, I did.

6647. What are the rules of promotion in the Company's merchant service?—One entire voyage to India before a person can be sworn in as fourth mate, two voyages before he can be third officer, and one as chief or second, in all four voyages; that is the most rapid rise which can take place in the Company's freighted service previous to obtaining a command.

6648. Is that what is called a seniority service?—No; the Company's own service is a seniority service; not the freighted.

6649. In that service you rose in nine voyages to the situation of commander?—I did.

6650. What is your remuneration as commander?—The allowance from the Company is £10 a month, and we are allowed 56 tons of privilege, and an indulgence on what is called the victualling bill; that is, room for stores for the commander's table. The commander victuals the chief and second officers, the surgeon and the purser.

6651. Do you mean 56 tons out and home?—Yes.

6652. That is merely an accommodation, not convertible into money?—It is considered by the Company as an indulgence, and supposed to remunerate the commander for the expense of victualling the four officers, which are ordered to be accommodated at his table.

6653. If you desired to sell your tonnage out and home, what could you have got for it?—Within these two voyages a very small sum; I can hardly say how much. I have merely heard of £30 a ton all round for the commander's privilege; but I never had any thing offered to myself, and I never knew of a commander's privilege being sold, except from hearsay.

6654. The inferior officers sell their privilege tonnage, do they not?—As a commander I have bought it, that they might pay more attention to the duties of the ship, and I have given them a sum that I did not expect to gain by, but that they should not be losers for not trading.

6655. What have you given?—I have given £40 a ton to India, China, and including the voyage home; but I have never made any thing by it myself.

6656. What outward investment have you carried to China?—I have had the good fortune to obtain double voyages the last four as a commander.

6657. By double, you mean a circuitous voyage?—Yes.

6658. What was your investment to India?—It was a variety of staple articles and manufactured piece goods, and such a variety I can hardly enumerate them.

6659. What

6659. What was your investment from India to China?—Cotton chiefly.

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6660. Have you ever gone direct to China?—No, I have not, as a commander.

Capt. R. Alsager.

6661. Was the cotton from India to China a profitable investment?—One voyage I lost money, and a second it was not very profitable; the last voyage it was profitable; the cotton bore a good price in the China market.

6662. What are your homeward investments?—Tea, raw silk, and nankeen.

6663. In what proportions did you invest in those three articles?—Tea is a bulky article; we can invest only about £6,000 in the commander's privilege, if he fills it entirely with tea.

6664. You prefer the less bulky and more valuable article?—Yes; when our funds are large in China, we are obliged to have recourse to them to get our remittances home.

6665. Did you invest largely in silk?—About £7,000 the last voyage.

6666. How many tons did that occupy?—About seven tons.

6667. Was it a profitable investment?—I made a very good remittance; about 4s. 10d.

6668. In what year was that?—1826.

6669. You mean that the dollar was remitted at 4s. 10d.?—Yes; I reckoned it as 5s. in China, but 4s. 10d. was considered a good remittance.

6670. Was the investment in tea profitable?—After deducting the expenses and 25 per cent. upon the gross amount of sales, it gave a profit of about £1,500 on £6,500.

6671. Was that greater than the profit on the silk?—Yes, greater.

6672. Notwithstanding the taxation of the 25 per cent.?—Yes.

6673. In order to compare that profit with the profit which could be made by an individual, you would have to deduct the charges of freight both ways?—In reckoning the profit upon my tea, I made no charge for my own privilege tonnage, but only on that which I purchased from my officers, and which I considered a fair charge of merchandize.

6674. What was your profit on that portion of the investment which was in the tonnage of the officers which you purchased?—None at all; I did not look for a profit.

6675. Upon the whole speculation, what should you consider the profit?—Taking the voyage round, and paying all expences till I came clear home, about £5,000 is, I think, a very fair average voyage; sometimes more, sometimes less.

6676. What per-centage would that make on the capital invested?—My capital was very large; £50,000.

6677. In what manner do you calculate your profit made on the two transactions, that of the outward cargo and that of the homeward cargo; how do you compare your original purchase money in England with the produce

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6678. You consider the whole as one transaction?—Yes; because when we arrive in India we sell our investments, reckoning the rupee at 2s. 6d. (or eight to the pound sterling), and the dollar at 5s. (or four to the pound sterling); they are not worth so much, but it simplifies the transaction; consequently we stand with a larger nominal capital in India and China than we really possess; therefore the net profit can only be ascertained when the capital is realized at the end of the voyage in England.

6679. With whom did you transact business at Canton?—With Howqua, the first of the security merchants. He is a man of large property, and I have always been anxious to deal with him. The commander whom I sailed under dealt with him, and Howqua considered me as an old friend; he has always taken my investment, so that I have had no trouble.

6680. Have any other captains experienced any trouble?—I have heard that several of them, to obtain a higher profit, sold to the outside merchants; and they have had bad teas in their investments to England, and also found difficulty in getting their money for the goods they sold.

6681. Did you ever export to China British manufactures?—In going circuitously I endeavoured to sell them in India as the first market.

6682. Did you ever purchase any at Singapore, and take them on?—Never.

6683. Was it the habit of any captain to do so?—Not those I have known.

6684. Were you enabled, during your residence at Canton, to ascertain whether the sale of British manufactures there by individual merchants was productive of profit?—The market lately, I think, has been a great deal glutted; and although English goods have fallen in England, they have not produced an equivalent profit in China, but have fallen in proportion in China to what they have done in England.

6685. Have they fallen in the same proportion?—I should think rather more. We are in China a very short period, and have no sooner delivered our outward cargo than we are under the Company's orders to take in our homeward cargo; and we have not the power which those in the free trade have of staying as long as suits them; we seldom stay in port more than four, five, or six weeks.

6686. Did you ever take bills on the Company in England?—Latterly the Company's treasury was opened so very low, that I preferred taking home an investment of goods to bills drawn at the rate of 4s. 3d. and 4s. 4d. a dollar, and lately 4s.

6687. What quality of tea have you generally brought home in your investment on your own account?—That depends entirely on the fancy of the individual. My purser, who is a man of business, had a great fancy for pekoe

pekoe tea, which is a scented black tea; four-fifths of pekoe and one-fifth of hyson or gunpowder is what I have generally brought home.

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6688. Has it been generally a better or an inferior quality as compared with the Company's teas?—The staple teas of the Company's are certainly better; but those I purchased are fancy teas, which the Company would not meddle with; they are beneath their notice; they are in small quantities in the market.

6689. It was your interest, having but a limited amount of tonnage, to purchase those teas which were of higher value?—I purchased those that I thought would give me the best profit.

6690. Have you found, in the course of your experience, any change in the taste of the public here as to teas, which has induced you to make any change in your investment?—In the four voyages I have been a commander I have generally dealt in the fine green and scented black teas; others have fallen into my steps during the last voyage, and the price of those teas rose very much in Canton; it is merely a speculation.

6691. You say that that part of the investment which consisted of English manufactures you disposed of in the ports of India in preference to China?—I thought I could make a better sale in India, compared with China; and besides which, there was another opportunity of turning the capital between India and China.

6692. Have you ever carried any English manufactures to China?—A very small quantity.

6693. When you did so, did you find it easy to dispose of them?—They were some I could not get rid of in Bengal, or in the short time I stopped at Singapore; so I took them as a forlorn hope to China.

6694. What did they consist of?—It was a few bales of coloured handkerchiefs.

6695. Did you dispose of them to a profit in China?—No; reckoning the dollar at 4s. there was no profit; I did not get prime cost.

6696. Did you ever take any woollens?—No.

6697. In respect to that you disposed of in India, was it a description of articles for the use of the Europeans, or of the natives?—The piece goods were chiefly for the native consumption; it was manufactured cottons.

6698. The rest of the investment consisted of articles for the Europeans?—Yes; in a variety of cloths, and a variety of shop articles.

6699. Do you know of any other officers of your ship, or commanders who have taken out any woollen goods to China?—I have heard of several; but we keep our own transactions a good deal to ourselves; I think there is not much open communication between us as to what we are doing. I am aware that they have done it, but I cannot say what profit they have made by it.

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6700. The ship in which you sailed, the *Waterloo*, was of 1800 tons?—Yes, it was.

6701. What was the rate of freight of your ship?—She is one of the Company's own ships; they put a nominal freight upon her; I believe the average of the season in which she was built; I have but little knowledge of the freight and charges; my duty is to sail the ship as economically as I can, and obey the Company's orders.

6702. Are the Company's own ships equipped in the same way as those they hire?—Yes.

6703. Is that equipment more complete than that of a man-of-war, going on so long a voyage?—I should think not. The ships are well found, but not more amply than necessary. I have only had the command of a ship since the peace, and I have been fortunate enough to make very good passages, and there has been a surplus of provisions left at the end of it; but considering the length of the voyage, and the uncertainty of wind and weather, there were no more than were requisite for the voyage.

6704. What is the number of the men?—One hundred and thirty-five men; that is, one hundred and thirty, and five to cover casualties; and five marine boys.

6705. What is the number of guns?—Twenty-six guns.

6706. Of what calibre were they?—Twenty eighteen-pounders; not long eighteens; they are about six feet six inches long; what we call the middle class gun—the ship gun; and six thirty-two pound carronades.

6707. With that number of men, could you have fought both sides of that ship in action?—I am afraid not.

6708. Could you have fought one side if it had been blowing fresh?—I hope we could.

6709. To what sized privateer or man-of-war should you have considered yourself equal in point of strength?—I should hope we should have been able to compete with a privateer of equal number of guns, being higher up in the water than they are.

6710. In a heavy sea?—Yes, I should think so.

6711. Would not a privateer have had guns of much smaller calibre if she had twenty-six guns?—I think several of the French privateers in the late war had one or two long guns, and they had an advantage over our ships on that account.

6712. Do you know of any privateer of twenty-six guns carrying eighteen-pounders?—I think the *Blonde* was probably twenty-six, or she might carry thirty; she had eighteen-pounders. I think they would prefer a long gun or two, that they might disable a ship at a long distance, without coming to close action.

6713. If any privateer with which you have been engaged had had guns of

of a very much smaller calibre than you had, would not you have a very great advantage over her from your height in the water?—Yes, if she came within reach of us.

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6714. What are the duties paid upon a ship of 1300 tons at Canton?—Rather more than 4,000 ounces of silver; about £1 a ton, I think it is, in round numbers.

6715. What proportion of that sum of 4,000 ounces of silver is paid for the ship, without reference to her size?—Nineteen hundred and fifty taels; that is what is called cumshaw, which is given generally for all ships, without any allusion to her size.

6716. That is the same on all ships?—I believe it is the same on all ships.

6717. With that exception, the duty is according to the measurement?—Yes; it is a peculiar mode of measurement.

6718. As regards that mode of measurement, do you apprehend that the portion of duty which is paid upon the size of the ship is greater in proportion upon a smaller ship than it is upon a larger one?—The returns shew that it is; on a ship of 1300 tons it amounts to £1 a ton, on a 500 ton ship about £2 a ton, the entire port charges.

6719. The question refers to that portion of the port charges which depends upon the measurement of the ship?—I suppose it would come to double.

6720. That would be in proportion to the size of the respective vessels?—It is partly in proportion to the number of tons, for there is a greater space unmeasured in a large than a small.

6721. Is that proportion unmeasured in proportion to the size of the ship?—The distance from our fore-mast to the bows, which is unmeasured, and from the mizen-mast to the taffrail, is double what it is in a small ship; then the depth of the hold is seventeen feet instead of twelve, that is not measured; which makes the charges on a small ship double.

6722. If the one is 500 tons, and the other 1000 tons, they would be the same per ton?—The Company's ships of 1300 tons bring home on an average, including private trade, 1500 tons of tea; average charge for measurement in China, 2,300 taels; cumshaw, 1,950 taels; total charge, 4,250 taels; not quite £1 per ton (3 taels). The Surrey of 443 tons:—charge for measurement, 1,253 taels; cumshaw, 1,950 taels; total, 3,203 taels; about 7½ taels or £2. 10s. per ton. The Earl Spencer of 521 tons:—charge for measurement, 1,511 taels, and 1,950 taels cumshaw, making 3,461 taels, (6½ taels) £2. 4s. per ton.

6723. In making that calculation you include the cumshaw?—Yes; every thing.

6724. What is the difference in freight between a ship of 500 tons and a ship of 1200 tons?—There are three ships which have performed their six voyages with nearly a full equipment, at £18. 19s. per ton.

(5 q 2)

6725. What

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6725. What would be the freight of a ship of 500 tons?—The last tender for four ships was £13. 18s.

6726. Was that tender for the circuitous or the direct voyage?—The direct voyage.

6727. The difference therefore is £5. between a ship of 500 tons and that of 1200 tons?—Yes.

6728. Deduct the £1 for the difference of duties, and the difference would still be £4 between the large and the small ship?—Yes.

6729. As an Indian merchant, should you prefer sending your goods to China by a small or a large ship?—I am afraid, in a pecuniary point of view, I must yield in favour of the small; but there are advantages in favour of the large ship which I think may counterbalance whatever difference there may be in a pecuniary point of view; they are more roomy, healthy, and are good sea boats, easily manageable, and imposing in their appearance: they carry a surgeon and a surgeon's assistant: the Company's instructions, and the mode of victualling, all shew an attention to the comforts of the seamen that a small ship does not possess, and worthy a great commercial nation.

6730. All those circumstances would induce a person to go to China in a large ship rather than a small one; but would that induce a merchant to send his goods in a large ship rather than a small one?—I am afraid that the merchants now are obliged to cut very close, and certainly the small ship is the lowest in expence.

6731. Are the large China ships frigate-built, or are they built for the purpose of carrying tea?—They are built with a poop, but in the model of the ship it is intended to carry a very large cargo.

6732. In point of sailing, would they compete with a vessel built for war?—The *Waterloo* is a very fast sailing ship. I have been in company with vessels of war, and we made a very good figure; we like a good strong breeze. I came home in twenty-one days from the line, and we averaged 200 miles, and I have run 260 miles by observation; it is not a bad sailing ship which can do that.

6733. Are the large China ships under-masted in consequence of the small number of men on board?—We are fully masted.

6734. Are your masts as large as they would be if the vessel was wanted for war?—I think as large as the vessel would bear; as large as she ought to have.

6735. Do you apprehend there are great advantages in the shipment of tea in a large vessel over a small one?—The tea is taken in with quickness, and stowed at once without being moved. After forming the level of the hold, which is called the ground tier, it is then all simple, and will take near fifteen hundred chests in one level; it is very quickly done, for it is only placing

placing them and screwing them close. The upper part of the hold requires more time ; two chops one day, and one chop another, are what is considered fair work, doing justice to the ship, and taking as much as we can ; we could take more, perhaps, but with the risk of losing stowage. 6 July 1880.
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6736. Can you embark your cargo in a large ship quicker than a small one?—I think we could.

6737. Could you fill a vessel of 1200 tons as quickly as one of 500?—No, I think not in the same time ; but I think we can do it in a less time proportionably.

6738. Sooner than two ships of 500 tons?—Yes.

6739. You could load a 1200 ton ship in the same time as a 500 ton ship nearly?—I have no doubt of that.

6740. What time does it take to load your ship?—We could do it in a fortnight. The forming the level takes the greatest time ; after that is complete, the chests of tea being of the same size, they are soon placed.

6741. If you were to bring home tea from China as a merchant, should you prefer bringing it in a large to bringing it in a small one?—Yes, certainly, at nearly the same freight.

6742. You think that the tea would come home in a better state?—I think probably it would ; I should prefer it myself ; but tea is a cargo which does not damage much.

6743. You have stated that the Company take a duty of 25 per cent. on the sale price of teas sold at their sales ; what duty do they take on the sale price of silks and other Chinese articles?—It is a very small per-centage on silk ; I am not exactly aware what it is ; the net amount of sale is given to us at the India House after those charges are deducted.

6744. Not more, probably, than to cover the expences of the warehousing and sale?—No, I think not ; and the expence of repacking, and so on.

6745. Are you aware that a considerable quantity of the privilege tea has been refused by the buyers at the recent sales at the India House?—That is the tea, I suppose, which has been bought from the outside merchants, men of not very good capital ; needy men, who have given a higher price for the outward investment ; some of them require much caution as to what you take in return, or they will sell you a bad article.

6746. Then you conceive that to be rejected on account of its being of bad quality?—Yes ; or not tea at all, some of it, I believe.

6747. Are you aware that the quantity rejected has increased very much of late years?—No, I was not aware of that ; I have never had any rejected.

6748. What do you consider it to be, if it was not tea?—Sloe leaves and other leaves ; not leaves of the tea. I understood some of it was so bad it was not permitted to be sold.

6749. It appears that, in the year 1823-4, 8,347 lbs. only of private trade tea

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tea were refused by the buyers; that the following year 184,640 lbs. of tea were refused by the buyers of the private trade tea; your inference is, that that must have been in consequence of the inferior quality of the tea?—I have no doubt of that.

6750. Are you acquainted with the manner in which the Americans conduct their trade at Canton?—We see them at Canton, but we have not any great intercourse with them.

6751. Do you know whether they purchase of the outside merchants?—I believe they purchase indiscriminately.

6752. What is the general class and size of their vessels?—They are very handy vessels, from 400 to 500 tons.

6753. What number of men would a ship of 500 tons require?—About six men to the hundred.

6754. Are the American ships built with reference to the cargo?—They are generally built handier than the English; their mode of measuring in America, I believe, is different. Depth is not reckoned in an English ship; consequently our ships are built deeper. I think they take length, breadth, and depth. In England it is length, breadth, and half the breadth.

6755. Are they more or less convenient for loading a cargo than ours?—They are quite as convenient, and they are a very fine class of ships.

6756. In what part of the ship do they take the depth?—I suppose the extreme depth. I do not know whether they take it to the bottom of the keel or to the floor timber; we take it to the floor timber in our builder's measurement, but it is not entered into the registered tonnage.

6757. Had you any opportunity of ascertaining the comparative rate of sailing between our vessels and the Americans?—I have been in company with them, and have beat them; but I think in light winds their vessels would sail better than mine would do.

6758. You have spoken of some bad tea being included in the investment of some of the private trade; is there much of that adulterated tea in the markets of Canton?—I have had so little intercourse with the outside merchants, dealing always with Howqua, that I cannot say; I have heard of a great deal of deteriorated tea, but it has not come under my own observation.

6759. Are the ships engaged in the country trade of India fine ships?—Some of them are very fine ships, and have been turned over to the East India Company afterwards; some of them taken into his Majesty's service as frigates.

6760. Of what size are the largest?—Twelve hundred tons.

6761. Are they built at Bombay?—Yes; the Scaleby Castle was built at Bombay.

6762. Do you know at what rate per ton they build at Bombay?—No.

6763. Are

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6763. Are they as well built as English ships?—I think they have the advantage of crooked timber; I should say they are stronger built.

6764. They are not inferior in any respect?—No; the finest merchant ship in the world is the Earl of Balcarras, in the Company's service, built at Bombay, of fourteen hundred tons.

6765. Was she built of teak?—Yes.

6766. Have you had occasion to observe the manner in which those large ships are managed by native sailors?—In warm weather there is no sailor more active than the Clashee (the native sailor of India); they are not good helmsmen, and they are not fit for cold weather; but for the purpose of navigation in warm climates, they are as smart and active as any people; they have not the stamina of a British sailor, and they require more of them, for their strength is not equal.

6767. Could they rig as well as the British?—Yes; I have tried them. I have had main-top men of one sort, and fore-top men of another, and they have taken in the sail quicker and set it quicker; they are more active and light, and run out on the yard lighter; a British sailor carries more weight with him; one British sailor would be equal to two, as far as weight goes.

6768. How many men should there be on board a country ship of 1400 tons?—The ship's company of a country ship is not encumbered with such a string of officers as we have in our Company's ships. There would be three or four officers in one of the large ships, and one commander; all the rest would be effective men; but there should be, I think, about 180 men; that would be equal to nearly double our ship's company in number, but not in effective strength. In the war time, when the navy used to press our men, and we were obliged to take native seamen to make up our complement, we reckoned two natives to one European.

6769. Upon the whole, should you consider that a native country ship sails at a cheaper rate than a British ship?—I should think they would while they remained in India, but not when they come to England; the lascars are not equal to encountering the cold; they require warm clothing and better fare; but in India they live on rice and a little fish.

6770. Are the sails all made in India?—There is an extensive canvass manufactory in Bengal; but I have seen some made of European canvass.

6771. Does that canvass bear a hard gale?—It does; but it must be taken great care of, or it will rot.

6772. What are the comparative qualities of the English and the Indian rope?—English rope is better for all services, and Indian rope for some services. Indian rope is very good for tackle-falls, and where it runs through blocks; it is a light rope; the English rope is clogged with tar, and that oozes out in hot weather; then there is the Manilla rope, which is very good if it is kept out of the rain.

6773. Are the cables of Indian rope?—Yes.

6774. Do

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6774. Do they keep perfectly well?—Yes; but it requires great caution; they must be kept dry; they must be often hauled up and exposed to the sun; they require sprinkling with salt, and a variety of precautions which they are used to in country ships.

6775. That care being taken, is their canvass and is their rope so good as our own?—I think not quite.

6776. If you were fitting out a ship at Bombay for a voyage to China, should you purchase English or native stores?—For the running rigging, perhaps, from being cheaper, I might have recourse to country materials, because it would answer my purpose for standing rigging, if I could be certain of its being quite new; but that sent out to India, if left in store, is apt to get rotten before it comes into use.

6777. Would you purchase Indian canvass for your sails?—No; I think the English would make up in durability any difference there might be in price.

6778. The English rope is the strongest?—Yes, certainly.

6779. Did it appear to you that a material improvement could be introduced into the manufacture of canvass and rope in India?—I cannot say, indeed; I have never entered into the formation of them.

7780. Are they made of Indian hemp?—Yes.

6781. Are iron cables much used?—I had an iron cable in the *Waterloo*, the four voyages, and scarcely ever let go an hempen one; I always preferred the iron one.

6782. You are obliged to have a certain portion of Europeans on board?—We must have three-fifths of European British subjects on board.

6783. Do you imagine it would be essential for the safety of the ship in the time of peace, that she should be armed in the manner you have stated?—It is a long voyage to look forward to, and we can scarcely know what changes may take place; the Company, in their wisdom, have said that the ship shall be effective for whatever may take place; and the ship could be made equal to warlike purposes immediately, if necessary.

6784. Putting aside any purposes of war as connected with national disputes, is it necessary for her safety against pirates, and so forth, that a ship should be armed in the way in which she is?—I think, when we consider the value of her cargo, and the Company being their own underwriters, that their equipment is not greater than might be required to cope with the pirates we have heard of as cruising in various directions.

6785. Are there any other particulars in the equipment of those ships which, in your opinion, might be altered so as to produce more economical sailing?—I can scarcely say; with their present equipment they are more than well found; we have been reducing the stores by degrees, and at present there is no more than they ought to have. The great objection has been

been with respect to two new cables every voyage; but when a cable has been two years on the former voyage, it is not unpleasant to have a new one to stand by in case of a gale of wind.

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6786. Do you know any instances in which the small vessels employed by the Americans have suffered by not having the same warlike equipment?—I have merely heard of instances; I go merely by public reports; there are several of them have been attacked by privateers and plundered lately.

6787. Are they not armed?—They have had two or four small guns.

6788. You do know of instances in which they have been attacked by privateers and plundered?—Individually I do not; I go by hearsay. The Saint Helena schooner was attacked, and her crew murdered, except some of her men which stowed themselves away, and who have reported it.

6789. Are there not dangers of that sort in the Indian Archipelago?—Not of pirate ships; they are chiefly boats. I think there is no danger to be apprehended from them unless by surprise, or being obliged to have recourse to boats. Where the *Alceste* was lost there was a Portuguese ship; we sent boats to see what she was, and the pirates attacked us in the boats, but they did not attempt to attack the ship; they beat us off the ground once, but on our coming back with a reinforcement they run away.

6790. Is it your opinion that those ships might be navigated with a smaller number of officers than they are at present?—I think they might; we have eight midshipmen; I do not think they are necessary; but it is a nursery for young officers.

6791. How many officers have you altogether?—A commander and six officers, that is, six mates; and eight midshipmen, a surgeon, a surgeon's assistant, and a purser. I think there are almost forty on the list before we come to the fore-mast men; that is, reckoning caulker, caulker's mates, sail-maker, cooper, baker, butcher, and poulterer, &c.

6792. Do you know how far down in the list you would go in a man-of-war with a complement of 130 men, before you come to the fore-mast men?—I think about the same.

6793. How do you divide your watches?—The officers are divided into three watches when we get out of the channel.

6794. Do you know of any country trade ships having visited any ports North of Canton?—I have heard of their trying it with opium; the first that tried it answered, I understand.

6795. Supposing you had no warlike equipment on board those vessels, how many men would be necessary to navigate?—I think, with the exception of some of her officers, she requires her whole crew; the masts and yards are large, and she requires a large number of men to navigate her.

6796. In time of peace, do you conceive that the danger of attack from pirates is considerable in any ship trading to China?—I think not great. We

have

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have lately found the South American ports sending out ships well armed ; and our instructions from the Company are to keep our guns clear, and to exercise twice a week.

6797. Have you ever fallen in with any who could have taken your ship but for those warlike preparations?—I think some of them have ten, fifteen, and some of them twenty guns, with a number of men on board, and desperadoes the whole of them, I believe.

6798. In time of war, should you conceive that the ships you have commanded would be able to escape from or contend with any man-of-war mounting twenty guns, well managed and well fought?—A man-of-war's equipment will be always superior to that of a merchant ship; but I should hope, with proper attention to training the ship's company, we should be able to defend ourselves against nearly an equal force.

6799. Putting out of the question that warlike equipment, you are not of opinion that any saving could be made in the equipment of your vessels beyond some reduction in the number of your officers?—I think not ; I am not aware of any.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to this day se'nnight,
Two o'clock.

I N D E X
TO
THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS DETAILED
IN
THE EVIDENCE.

(*N)

I N D E X.

A.

General Heads.	Names of Witnesses, and Page of Evidence.
<i>Abkarry Duties</i> , what	(Mangles) 57
<i>Absentee</i> allowance to civil servants of East-India Company	(Lloyd, Melvill) 5
<i>Abstract Statement</i> of the charges for the year 1827-8, whether stated as deductions from revenues or as charges appertaining to the civil and military government of India	(Melvill) 237 to 243
<i>———— (See Revenue, &c.)</i>	
<i>Account</i> of the gross and net produce of the revenues of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay combined, and the gross and net charges defrayed out of those revenues, from the year 1823-4 to 1827-8, and as estimated for 1828-1829	(Melvill) 208, 235
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SELECT COMMITTEE

OF

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO

ENQUIRE INTO THE PRESENT STATE

OF THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND INTO THE

TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN, THE EAST-INDIES,
AND CHINA,

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES. OF EVIDENCE

AND

AN APPENDIX.

LONDON:

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1830.

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APPOINTED TO

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OF THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

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1830.

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India Board, Westminster, }
4th June, 1829.

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*(Presented to the House by his late Majesty's Command,
February 9, 1830.)*

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(Originally annexed to the Fifth Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Affairs of the East-India Company in 1812, and communicated to the House of Lords in 1830.)

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